



# EQiP Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science

## Version 3.0

### Introduction:

The Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQiP) Rubric for science provides criteria by which to measure the alignment and overall quality of lessons and units with respect to the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS). The purposes of the rubric and review process are to: (1) review existing lessons and units to determine what revisions are needed; (2) provide constructive criterion-based feedback and suggestions for improvement to developers; (3) identify exemplars/models for teachers' use within and across states; and (4) to inform the development of new lessons and units.

To effectively apply this rubric, an understanding of the National Research Council's [A Framework for K–12 Science Education](#) and the [Next Generation Science Standards](#), including the NGSS shifts ([Appendix A of the NGSS](#)), is needed. Unlike in the [EQiP Rubrics for mathematics and ELA](#), there is not a category in the science rubric for shifts. Over the course of the rubric development, writers and reviewers noted that the shifts fit naturally into the other three categories. For example, the blending of the three-dimensions, or three-dimensional learning, is addressed in each of the three categories; coherence is addressed in the first two categories; connections to the Common Core State Standards is addressed in the first category; etc. Each category includes criteria by which to evaluate the integration of engineering, when included in a lesson or unit, through practices or disciplinary core ideas. Another difference between the EQiP Rubrics from mathematics and ELA is in the name of the categories; the rubric for science refers to them simply as *categories*, whereas the math and ELA rubrics refer to the categories as dimensions. This distinction was made because the Next Generation Science Standards already uses the term *dimensions* to refer to practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts.

The [architecture of the NGSS](#) is significantly different from other sets of standards. The three dimensions, crafted into performance expectations, describe what is to be assessed following instruction and therefore are the measure of proficiency. A lesson or unit may provide opportunities for students to demonstrate performance of practices connected with their understanding of core ideas and crosscutting concepts as foundational pieces. This three-dimensional learning leads toward eventual mastery of performance expectations. In this scenario, quality materials should clearly describe or show how the lesson or unit works coherently with previous and following lessons or units to help build toward eventual mastery of performance expectations. The term *element* is used in the rubric to represent the relevant, bulleted practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts that are articulated in the foundation boxes of the standards and in K–12 grade-banded progressions and the [NGSS Appendices](#). Given the understanding that lessons and units should integrate the practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts in ways that make sense instructionally and not replicate the exact integration in the performance expectations, the new term *elements* is needed to describe these smaller units of the three dimensions. Although it is unlikely that a single lesson would provide adequate opportunities for a student to demonstrate proficiency on an entire performance expectation, high-quality units are more likely to provide these opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on one or more performances expectations.

There is a recognition among educators that curriculum and instruction will need to shift with the adoption of the NGSS, but it is currently difficult to find instructional materials designed for the NGSS. The power of the rubric is in the feedback and suggestions for improvement it provides curriculum developers and the productive conversations in which educators engage while evaluating materials using the quality review process. For curriculum developers, the rubric and review process provide evidence of the quality and the degree to which the lesson or unit is designed for the NGSS. Additionally, the rubric and review process generate suggestions for improvement on how materials can be further improved and better designed to match up with the vision of the *Framework* and the NGSS.



## EQIP Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science

Lessons and units designed for the NGSS include clear and compelling evidence of the following:

I. NGSS 3D Design	II. NGSS Instructional Supports	III. Monitoring NGSS Student Progress
<p><i>The lesson/unit is designed so students make sense of phenomena and/or design solutions to problems by engaging in student performances that integrate the three dimensions of the NGSS.</i></p> <p><b>A. Explaining Phenomena/Designing Solutions:</b> Making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to a problem drive student learning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Student questions and prior experiences related to the phenomenon or problem motivate sense-making and/or problem solving.</li> <li>ii. The focus of the lesson is to support students in making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to problems.</li> <li>iii. When engineering is a learning focus, it is integrated with developing disciplinary core ideas from physical, life, and/or earth and space sciences.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Three Dimensions:</b> Builds understanding of multiple grade-appropriate elements of the science and engineering practices (SEPs), disciplinary core ideas (DCIs), and crosscutting concepts (CCCs) that are deliberately selected to aid student sense-making of phenomena and/or designing of solutions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the SEP(s).</li> <li>ii. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the DCI(s).</li> <li>iii. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the CCC(s).</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Integrating the Three Dimensions:</b> Student sense-making of phenomena and/or designing of solutions requires student performances that integrate elements of the SEPs, CCCs, and DCIs.</p>	<p><i>The lesson/unit supports three-dimensional teaching and learning for ALL students by placing the lesson in a sequence of learning for all three dimensions and providing support for teachers to engage all students.</i></p> <p><b>A. Relevance and Authenticity:</b> Engages students in authentic and meaningful scenarios that reflect the practice of science and engineering as experienced in the real world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Students experience phenomena or design problems as directly as possible (firsthand or through media representations).</li> <li>ii. Includes suggestions for how to connect instruction to the students' home, neighborhood, community and/or culture as appropriate.</li> <li>iii. Provides opportunities for students to connect their explanation of a phenomenon and/or their design solution to a problem to questions from their own experience.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Student Ideas:</b> Provides opportunities for students to express, clarify, justify, interpret, and represent their ideas and to respond to peer and teacher feedback orally and/or in written form as appropriate.</p> <p><b>C. Building Progressions:</b> Identifies and builds on students' prior learning <u>in all three dimensions</u>, including providing the following support to teachers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Explicitly identifying prior student learning expected for all three dimensions</li> <li>ii. Clearly explaining how the prior learning will be built upon</li> </ol> <p><b>D. Scientific Accuracy:</b> Uses scientifically accurate and grade-appropriate scientific information, phenomena, and representations to support students' three-dimensional learning.</p> <p><b>E. Differentiated Instruction:</b> Provides guidance for teachers to support differentiated instruction by including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Appropriate reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking alternatives (e.g., translations, picture support, graphic organizers, etc.) for students who are English language learners, have special needs, or read well below the grade level.</li> <li>ii. Extra support (e.g., phenomena, representations, tasks) for students who are struggling to meet the targeted expectations.</li> <li>iii. Extensions for students with high interest or who have already met the performance expectations to develop deeper understanding of the practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts.</li> </ol>	<p><i>The lesson/unit supports monitoring student progress in all three dimensions of the NGSS as students make sense of phenomena and/or design solutions to problems.</i></p> <p><b>A. Monitoring 3D student performances:</b> Elicits direct, observable evidence of three-dimensional learning; students are using practices with core ideas and crosscutting concepts to make sense of phenomena and/or to design solutions.</p> <p><b>B. Formative:</b> Embeds formative assessment processes throughout that evaluate student learning to inform instruction.</p> <p><b>C. Scoring guidance:</b> Includes aligned rubrics and scoring guidelines that provide guidance for interpreting student performance along the three dimensions to support teachers in (a) planning instruction and (b) providing ongoing feedback to students.</p> <p><b>D. Unbiased tasks/items:</b> Assesses student proficiency using methods, vocabulary, representations, and examples that are accessible and unbiased for all students.</p>

## EQIP Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science

Units designed for the NGSS will *also include* clear and compelling evidence of the following additional criteria:

I. NGSS 3D Design	II. NGSS Instructional Supports	III. Monitoring NGSS Student Progress
<p>D. <b>Unit Coherence:</b> Lessons fit together to target a set of performance expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Each lesson builds on prior lessons by addressing questions raised in those lessons, cultivating new questions that build on what students figured out, or cultivating new questions from related phenomena, problems, and prior student experiences.</li> <li>ii. The lessons help students develop toward proficiency in a targeted set of performance expectations.</li> </ul> <p>E. <b>Multiple Science Domains:</b> <i>When appropriate</i>, links are made across the science domains of life science, physical science and Earth and space science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Disciplinary core ideas from different disciplines are used together to explain phenomena.</li> <li>ii. The usefulness of crosscutting concepts to make sense of phenomena or design solutions to problems <i>across science domains</i> is highlighted.</li> </ul> <p>F. <b>Math and ELA:</b> Provides grade-appropriate connection(s) to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and/or English Language Arts &amp; Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.</p>	<p>F. <b>Teacher Support for Unit Coherence:</b> Supports teachers in facilitating coherent student learning experiences over time by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Providing strategies for linking student engagement across lessons (e.g. cultivating new student questions at the end of a lesson in a way that leads to future lessons, helping students connect related problems and phenomena across lessons, etc.).</li> <li>ii. Providing strategies for ensuring student sense-making and/or problem-solving is linked to learning in all three dimensions.</li> </ul> <p>G. <b>Scaffolded differentiation over time:</b> Provides supports to help students engage in the practices as needed and gradually adjusts supports over time so that students are increasingly responsible for making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to problems.</p>	<p>E. <b>Coherent Assessment system:</b> Includes pre-, formative, summative, and self-assessment measures that assess three-dimensional learning.</p> <p>F. <b>Opportunity to learn:</b> Provides multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate performance of practices connected with their understanding of disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts and receive feedback.</p>

## Using the EQuIP Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science

The first step in the review process is to become familiar with the rubric, the lesson or unit, and the practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts targeted in the lesson or unit. The three categories in the rubric are: NGSS 3D Design, NGSS Instructional Supports, and Monitoring NGSS Student Progress. Each criterion within each category should be considered separately as part of the complete review process and are used to provide sufficient information for determination of overall quality of the lesson or unit.

For the purposes of using the rubric, **a lesson is defined as:** a set of instructional activities and assessments that may extend over several class periods or days; it is more than a single activity. **A unit is defined as:** a set of lessons that extend over a longer period of time. If you are reviewing a lesson, you will use only the first section of the rubric (page 2). If you are reviewing an instructional unit, you apply all of the criteria of the rubric (pages 2 and 3) across the unit. You'll notice that the definition of a "unit" is intentionally broad here. If you are reviewing instructional materials that cover more than a few days of instruction, use the full unit list of criteria.

Also important to the review process is feedback and suggestions for improvement to the developer of the resource. For this purpose, a set of response forms is included so that the reviewer can effectively provide criterion-based feedback and suggestions for improvement for each category. The response forms correspond to the criteria of the rubric. Evidence for each criterion must be identified and documented and criterion-based feedback and suggestions for improvement should be given to help improve the lesson or unit.

While it is possible for the rubric to be applied by an individual, the quality review process works best with a team of reviewers, as a collaborative process, with the individuals recording their thoughts and then discussing with other team members before finalizing their feedback and suggestions for improvement. Discussions should focus on understanding all reviewers' interpretations of the criteria and the evidence they have found. With professional learning support for the group, this process will provide higher quality feedback about the lessons and also calibrate responses across reviewers in a way that moves them toward agreement about quality with respect to the NGSS. Commentary needs to be constructive, with all lessons or units considered "works in progress." Reviewers must be respectful of team members and the resource contributor. Contributors should see the review process as an opportunity to gather feedback and suggestions for improvement rather than to advocate for their work. All feedback and suggestions for improvement should be criterion-based and have supporting evidence from the lesson or unit cited.

In order to apply the rubric with reliability and with fidelity to its intent, it is recommended that those applying the rubric to lessons and units be supported to attend EQuIP professional learning based on the EQuIP Facilitator's Guide. There is guidance within the rubric below and in the Facilitator's Guide, but application of the rubric is much more successful with the support of professional learning. It is difficult to develop proficiency at using the rubric without *at least* two days of high quality professional learning that engages participants in evaluating lessons and units.

### Step 1 – Review Materials

The first step in the review process is to become familiar with the rubric and the lesson or unit that is being evaluated.

- Review the rubric and record the grade and title of the lesson or unit on the response form.
- Scan the lesson/unit to see what it's about; identify what practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts are targeted; and determine how it is organized.
- Read key materials related to instruction, assessment, and teacher guidance.
- Read the definitions of "lesson" and "unit" near the top of this page and decide as a group whether you will be using the shorter list of criteria for a lesson, or the longer list of criteria that apply to a unit.

### Step 2 – Apply Criteria in Category I: NGSS 3D Design

Evaluate the lesson or unit using the criteria in the first category, first individually and then as a team.

- Closely examine the lesson or unit through the "lens" of each criterion in the first category.
- For each criterion, record where you find it in the lesson/unit (the evidence) and why/how this evidence is an indicator the criterion is being met (the reasoning)
- As individuals, check the box for each criterion on the response form that indicates the degree to which evidence could be identified.
- Identify and record input on specific improvements that might be made to meet criteria or strengthen alignment.

- Look across the criteria of the category (A–C for a lesson and A–F for a unit), evaluate the degree to which they are met, and enter your 0–3 rating for Category I: NGSS 3D Design (see scale description below)
- As a team, discuss criteria for which clear and substantial evidence is found, as well as criterion-based suggestions for specific improvements that might be needed to meet criteria. As a team, enter your 0–3 rating for Dimension I: NGSS 3D Design.

*If the rubric is being used to approve or vet resources and the lesson or unit does not score at least a “2” in **Category I: NGSS 3D Designed**, the review should stop and feedback should be provided to the lesson developer(s) to guide revisions. If the rubric is being used locally for revising and building lessons, professional judgment should guide whether to continue reviewing the lesson. Categories II and III may be time consuming to evaluate if Category I has not been met and the feedback may not be useful if significant revisions are needed in Category I, but evaluating these criteria in a group may support deeper and more common understanding of the criteria in these categories and more complete feedback to the lesson developer (if they are not in the room) so that Categories II and III are more likely to be met with fewer cycles of revision.*

### **Step 3 – Apply Criteria in Categories II and III: Instructional Supports and Monitoring Student Progress**

The third step is to evaluate the lesson or unit using the criteria in the second and third categories, first individually and then as a group.

- Closely examine the lesson or unit through the “lens” of each criterion in the second and third categories of the response form.
- For each criterion, record where you find it in the lesson/unit (the evidence) and why/how this evidence is an indicator the criterion is being met (the reasoning)
- Individually check the box for each criterion on the response form that indicates the degree to which evidence could be identified.
- Record any suggestions for improvement and then rate each category using the 0–3 rating scale in the forms below.

*When working in a group, teams may choose to compare ratings after each category or delay conversation until each person has rated and recorded input for both Categories II and III. Complete consensus among team members is not required but discussion is a key component of the review process that moves the group to a better understanding of the criteria.*

### **Step 4 – Apply an Overall Rating and Provide Summary Comments**

- Review ratings for Categories I–III, adding/clarifying comments as needed.
- Write summary comments for your overall rating on your recording sheet.
- Total category ratings, reflect on the overall quality of the lesson or unit, and record the overall rating of E, E/I, R, or N.

*If working in a group, individuals should record their overall rating prior to conversation.*

### **Step 5 – Compare Overall Ratings and Recommend Next Steps**

- Note the evidence cited to arrive at final ratings, summary comments and similarities and differences among raters. Recommend next steps for the lesson/unit and provide recommendations for improvement and/or ratings to developers/teachers.

### **Rating Scales**

***Rating for Category I: NGSS 3D Designed is non-negotiable and requires a rating of 2 or 3. If rating is 0 or 1 then a review for resource approval does not continue.***

#### **Rating Scale for Categories I, II, & III:**

Rating scales are different for each category and can be found after each category in the rubric.

#### **Descriptors for Categories I, II, & III:**

**3: Exemplifies NGSS Quality**—meets the standard described by criteria in the category, as explained in criterion-based observations.

**2: Approaching NGSS Quality**—meets many criteria but will benefit from revision in others, as suggested in criterion-based observations.

**1: Developing toward NGSS Quality**—needs significant revision, as suggested in criterion-based observations.

**0: Not representing NGSS Quality**—does not address the criteria in the category.

#### **Overall Rating for the Lesson/Unit:**

**E: Example of high quality NGSS design**—High quality design for the NGSS across all three categories of the rubric; a lesson or unit with this rating will still need adjustments for a specific classroom, but the support is there to make this possible; exemplifies most criteria across Categories I, II, & III of the rubric. (total score ~8–9)

**E/I: Example of high quality NGSS design if Improved**—Adequate design for the NGSS, but would benefit from some improvement in one or more categories; most criteria have at least adequate evidence (total score ~6–7)

**R: Revision needed**—Partially designed for the NGSS, but needs significant revision in one or more categories (total ~3–5)

**N: Not ready to review**—Not designed for the NGSS; does not meet criteria (total 0–2)

**EQIP Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science (Version 3.0)**

Reviewer Name or ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson/Unit Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category I: NGSS 3D Design (lessons and units):** *The lesson/unit is designed so students make sense of phenomena and/or design solutions to problems by engaging in student performances that integrate the three dimensions of the NGSS.*

<b>Lesson and Unit Criteria</b> Lessons and units designed for the NGSS include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials</b> (what happened/where did it happen) <b>and reviewer’s reasoning</b> (how/why is this evidence)		<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
<b>A. Explaining Phenomena/Designing Solutions:</b> Making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to a problem drive student learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Student questions and prior experiences related to the phenomenon or problem motivate sense-making and/or problem solving.</li> <li>ii. The focus of the lesson is to support students in making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to problems.</li> <li>iii. When engineering is a learning focus, it is integrated with developing disciplinary core ideas from physical, life, and/or earth and space sciences.</li> </ul>			<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>B. Three Dimensions:</b> Builds understanding of multiple grade-appropriate elements of the science and engineering practices (SEPs), disciplinary core ideas (DCIs), and crosscutting concepts (CCCs) <i>that are deliberately selected to aid student sense-making of phenomena and/or designing of solutions.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the SEP(s).</li> <li>ii. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the DCI(s).</li> <li>iii. Provides opportunities to <i>develop and use</i> specific elements of the CCC(s).</li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence needs to be at the <i>element level</i> of the dimensions (see rubric introduction for a description of what is meant by “element”)</b></p>	Document evidence and reasoning, and evaluate whether or not there is sufficient evidence of quality for each dimension separately	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive  <b>(All 3 dimensions must be rated at least “adequate” to mark “adequate” overall)</b>	
i.	i.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive		
ii.	ii.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive		
iii.	iii.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive		

<p>C. <b>Integrating the Three Dimensions:</b> Student sense-making of phenomena and/or designing of solutions requires student performances that integrate elements of the SEPs, CCCs, and DCIs.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<p><b>Rating for Category I. NGSS 3D Design—lessons</b>  After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which there is enough evidence to support a claim that the lesson meets these criteria.</p> <p><i>If you are evaluating an instructional unit rather than a single lesson, continue on to evaluate criteria D-F and rate Category I overall below.</i></p>	<p><b>Lesson Rating scale for Category I (Criteria A–C only):</b></p> <p><b>3:</b> Extensive evidence to meet at least two criteria (and at least adequate evidence for the third)</p> <p><b>2:</b> Adequate evidence to meet all three criteria in the category</p> <p><b>1:</b> Adequate evidence to meet at least one criterion in the category, but insufficient evidence for at least one other criterion</p> <p><b>0:</b> Inadequate (or no) evidence to meet any of the criteria in the category</p>		<p><b>Circle Rating</b></p> <p><b>0 1 2 3</b></p> <p>After rating the lesson, read below for next steps</p>

**What’s next if the lesson rating is less than a 2?**

*If the rubric is being used to approve or vet resources and the lesson or unit does not score at least a “2” in **Category I: NGSS 3D Designed**, the review should stop and feedback should be provided to the lesson developer(s) to guide revisions. If the rubric is being used locally for revising and building lessons, professional judgment should guide whether to continue reviewing the lesson. Categories II and III may be time consuming to evaluate if Category I has not been met and the feedback may not be useful if significant revisions are needed in Category I, but evaluating these criteria in a group may support deeper and more common understanding of the criteria in these categories and more complete feedback to the lesson developer (if they are not in the room) so that Categories II and III are more likely to be met with fewer cycles of revision.*

**What’s next if the lesson rating is a 2 or 3?**

*If you are evaluating a lesson that shows sufficient evidence of quality to warrant a rating of either a 2 or a 3 for Category I, proceed to Category II: NGSS Instructional Supports*

**Category I: NGSS 3D Design (additional criteria for units only):**

*If you are evaluating a lesson, it is not necessary to evaluate criteria D–F. Please enter your rating for a single lesson above (after C).*

<b>Unit Criteria</b> A unit or longer lesson designed for the NGSS will also include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials and reviewers' reasoning</b>	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
D. <b>Unit Coherence:</b> Lessons fit together to target a set of performance expectations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Each lesson builds on prior lessons by addressing questions raised in those lessons, cultivating new questions that build on what students figured out, or cultivating new questions from related phenomena, problems, and prior student experiences.</li> <li>ii. The lessons help students develop toward proficiency in a targeted set of performance expectations.</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
E. <b>Multiple Science Domains:</b> <i>When appropriate,</i> links are made across the science domains of life science, physical science and Earth and space science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Disciplinary core ideas from different disciplines are used together to explain phenomena.</li> <li>ii. The usefulness of crosscutting concepts to make sense of phenomena or design solutions to problems <i>across science domains</i> is highlighted.</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
F. <b>Math and ELA:</b> Provides grade-appropriate connection(s) to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and/or English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>Rating for Category I. NGSS 3D Designed—units</b> After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which the criteria are met across the unit.	<b>Unit Rating Scale for Category I (Criteria A–F):</b> <b>3:</b> At least adequate evidence for all of the unit criteria in the category; extensive evidence for criteria A–C <b>2:</b> At least some evidence for all unit criteria in Category I (A–F); adequate evidence for criteria A–C <b>1:</b> Adequate evidence for some criteria in Category I, but inadequate/no evidence for at least one criterion A–C <b>0:</b> Inadequate (or no) evidence to meet any criteria in Category I (A–F)		<b>Circle Rating</b>  <b>0 1 2 3</b>

*If the rubric is being used to approve or vet resources and the unit does not score at least a “2” overall in **Category I: NGSS 3D Design**, the review should stop here and feedback should be provided to the unit developer(s) to guide revisions. If the rubric is being used locally for revising and building units, professional judgment should be used on whether or not to continue reviewing the unit. For example, a unit that is weak in one aspect of criterion A, but that the reviewers think is easy to fix, might warrant continued review to provide more complete feedback to the unit developer(s).*

**Category II: NGSS Instructional Supports (lessons and units):** *The lesson/unit supports three-dimensional teaching and learning for ALL students by placing the lesson in a sequence of learning for all three dimensions and providing support for teachers to engage all students.*

<b>Lesson and Unit Criteria</b> Lessons and units designed for the NGSS include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials and reviewers' reasoning</b>	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
A. <b>Relevance and Authenticity:</b> Engages students in authentic and meaningful scenarios that reflect the practice of science and engineering as experienced in the real world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Students experience phenomena or design problems as directly as possible (firsthand or through media representations).</li> <li>ii. Includes suggestions for how to connect instruction to the students' home, neighborhood, community and/or culture as appropriate.</li> <li>iii. Provides opportunities for students to connect their explanation of a phenomenon and/or their design solution to a problem to questions from their own experience.</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
B. <b>Student Ideas:</b> Provides opportunities for students to express, clarify, justify, interpret, and represent their ideas and respond to peer and teacher feedback orally and/or in written form as appropriate.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
C. <b>Building Progressions:</b> Identifies and builds on students' prior learning <u>in all three dimensions</u> , including providing the following support to teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Explicitly identifying prior student learning expected for all three dimensions</li> <li>ii. Clearly explaining how the prior learning will be built upon.</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	

<p>D. <b>Scientific Accuracy:</b> Uses scientifically accurate and grade-appropriate scientific information, phenomena, and representations to support students’ three-dimensional learning.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<p>E. <b>Differentiated Instruction:</b> Provides guidance for teachers to support differentiated instruction by including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Appropriate reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking alternatives (e.g., translations, picture support, graphic organizers, etc.) for students who are English language learners, have special needs, or read well below the grade level.</li> <li>ii. Extra support (e.g., phenomena, representations, tasks) for students who are struggling to meet the targeted expectations.</li> <li>iii. Extensions for students with high interest or who have already met the performance expectations to develop deeper understanding of the practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts.</li> </ul>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<p><b>Rating for Category II: Instructional Supports—lessons</b>  After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which the lesson met this category.</p> <p><i>If you are evaluating an instructional unit rather than a single lesson, continue on to evaluate criteria F–G and rate Category II overall below.</i></p>	<p><b>Lesson Rating scale for Category II (Criteria A-E only):</b></p> <p><b>3:</b> At least adequate evidence for all criteria in the category; extensive evidence for at least one criterion</p> <p><b>2:</b> Some evidence for all criteria in the category and adequate evidence for at least four criteria, including A</p> <p><b>1:</b> Adequate evidence of quality for at least two criteria in the category</p> <p><b>0:</b> Adequate evidence of quality for no more than one criterion in the category</p>		<p><b>Circle Rating</b></p> <p><b>0 1 2 3</b></p>

## Category II: NGSS Instructional Supports (additional criteria for units only)

If you are evaluating a lesson, it is not necessary to evaluate criteria F–G. Please enter your rating for a lesson above (after E).

<b>Unit Criteria</b> A unit or longer lesson designed for the NGSS will also include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials and reviewers' reasoning</b>	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
<b>F. Teacher Support for Unit Coherence:</b> Supports teachers in facilitating coherent student learning experiences over time by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Providing strategies for linking student engagement across lessons (e.g. cultivating new student questions at the end of a lesson in a way that leads to future lessons, helping students connect related problems and phenomena across lessons, etc.).</li> <li>ii. Providing strategies for ensuring student sense-making and/or problem-solving is linked to learning in all three dimensions.</li> </ol>		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>G. Scaffolded differentiation over time:</b> Provides supports to help students engage in the practices as needed and gradually adjusts supports over time so that students are increasingly responsible for making sense of phenomena and/or designing solutions to problems.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>Rating for Category II: NGSS Instructional Supports—units</b> After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which the criteria are met across the unit.	<b>Unit rating scale for Category II (Criteria A-G):</b> <b>3:</b> At least adequate evidence for all criteria in the category; extensive evidence for at least two criteria <b>2:</b> Some evidence for all criteria in the category and adequate evidence for at least five criteria, including A <b>1:</b> Adequate evidence for at least three criteria in the category <b>0:</b> Adequate evidence for no more than two criteria in the category		<b>Circle Rating</b>  <b>0 1 2 3</b>

**Category III: Monitoring NGSS Student Progress (lessons and units)** *The lesson/unit supports monitoring student progress in all three dimensions of the NGSS as students make sense of phenomena and/or design solutions to problems.*

<b>Lesson and Unit Criteria</b> Lessons and units designed for the NGSS include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials and reviewers' reasoning</b>	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
<b>A. Monitoring 3D student performances:</b> Elicits direct, observable evidence of three-dimensional learning; students are using practices with core ideas and crosscutting concepts to make sense of phenomena and/or to design solutions.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>B. Formative:</b> Embeds formative assessment processes throughout that evaluate student learning to inform instruction.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>C. Scoring guidance:</b> Includes aligned rubrics and scoring guidelines that provide guidance for interpreting student performance along the three dimensions to support teachers in (a) planning instruction and (b) providing ongoing feedback to students.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>D. Unbiased tasks/items:</b> Assesses student proficiency using methods, vocabulary, representations, and examples that are accessible and unbiased for all students.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>Rating for Category III. Monitoring NGSS Student Progress—lessons</b> After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which the lesson met this category.  <i>If you are evaluating an instructional unit rather than a single lesson, continue on to evaluate criteria E–F and rate Category III overall below.</i>	<b>Lesson Rating scale for Category III (Criteria A–D only):</b> <b>3:</b> At least adequate evidence for all criteria in the category; extensive evidence for at least one criterion <b>2:</b> Some evidence for all criteria in the category and adequate evidence for at least three criteria, including A <b>1:</b> Adequate evidence for at least two criteria in the category <b>0:</b> Adequate evidence for no more than one criterion in the category		<b>Circle Rating</b>  <b>0 1 2 3</b>

**Category III: Monitoring NGSS Student Progress (additional criteria for units only)**

*If you are evaluating a lesson, it is not necessary to evaluate criteria E–F. Please enter your rating for a lesson above (after D).*

<b>Unit Criteria</b> A unit or longer lesson designed for the NGSS will also include clear and compelling evidence of the following:	<b>Specific evidence from materials and reviewers’ reasoning</b>	<b>Evidence of Quality?</b>	<b>Suggestions for improvement</b>
E. <b>Coherent Assessment system:</b> Includes pre-, formative, summative, and self-assessment measures that assess three-dimensional learning.		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
F. <b>Opportunity to learn:</b> Provides multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate performance of practices connected with their understanding of disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts and receive feedback		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive	
<b>Rating for Category III: Monitoring NGSS Student Progress—units</b> After carefully weighing the evidence, reasoning, and suggestions for improvement, rate the degree to which the criteria are met across the unit.	<b>Unit Rating scale for Category III (Criteria A–F):</b> <b>3:</b> At least adequate evidence for all criteria in the category; extensive evidence for at least one criterion <b>2:</b> Some evidence for all criteria in the category and adequate evidence for at least five criteria, including A <b>1:</b> Adequate evidence for at least three criteria in the category <b>0:</b> Adequate evidence for no more than two criteria in the category		<b>Circle Rating</b>  <b>0 1 2 3</b>

## Category Ratings:

Transfer your team's ratings from each category to the following chart and add the scores together for the overall score:

Category ratings			Total Score
Category I: NGSS 3D Design	Category II: NGSS Instructional Supports	Category III: Monitoring NGSS Student Progress	
0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3	0 1 2 3	

<p><b>Overall ratings:</b> The score total is an <i>approximate</i> guide for the rating. Reviewers should use the evidence of quality across categories to guide the final rating. In other words, the rating could differ from the total score recommendations if the reviewer has evidence to support this variation.</p>	<p><b>E: Example of high quality NGSS design</b>—High quality design for the NGSS across all three categories of the rubric; a lesson or unit with this rating will still need adjustments for a specific classroom, but the support is there to make this possible; exemplifies most criteria across Categories I, II, &amp; III of the rubric. (total score ~8–9)</p> <p><b>E/I: Example of high quality NGSS design if Improved</b>—Adequate design for the NGSS, but would benefit from some improvement in one or more categories; most criteria have at least adequate evidence (total score ~6–7)</p> <p><b>R: Revision needed</b>—Partially designed for the NGSS, but needs significant revision in one or more categories (total ~3–5)</p> <p><b>N: Not ready to review</b>—Not designed for the NGSS; does not meet criteria (total 0–2)</p>	Circle the overall rating below:
		<p><b>E      E/I      R      N</b></p>

Overall Summary Comments: