

NGSS NOW

9 things to know about quality K-12 science education in May 2018

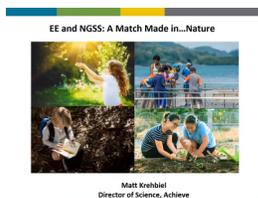


1 NEW: PEEC Professional Learning Guide is out!

Achieve recently released a new [PEEC Professional Learning Guide](#), which will provide professional learning providers with an understanding of the processes necessary to use PEEC to evaluate science instructional materials programs. The guide is divided into six sections and includes professional learning slide decks, talking points, handouts, and more. [Check it out!](#)



2 Environmental Education and the NGSS: A Match Made in Nature



On April 30, Achieve's Matt Krehbiel presented on the April 2018 installment of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)'s monthly webinar series about the relationship between environmental education and the NGSS. If you missed it, you can watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

3 Video Conversation Series from LinkEngineering

LinkEngineering has launched a new [video conversation series](#) "for easy, inspiring professional development." The series will feature live webchats with leaders in PK-12 engineering education and include plenty of time for Q&A. The first chat - "Engineering Basics

for PK-12 Educators" with Cary Sneider, PhD - was held on April 17, and the [video](#) of the conversation is now available online. The next conversation - "Say Yes to Engineering Education: Overcoming Six Common Fears" with Christine Cunningham, PhD - will be held on May 15 at 4:00 p.m. ET.

4 Office of Civil Rights Releases New Data on STEM Course Taking



The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has recently released updated 2015-16 data on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics course taking in American public schools. The data reveal large discrepancies in STEM course offerings between all high schools and those with high black and Latino student enrollment. Dive into the data highlights [here](#).

5 From THE Journal: Achieve Gives Guidance to States on Developing Well Rounded Science Assessments

ICYMI: Achieve released new [Science Assessment Criteria](#) last month! Take a look and check out this [article](#) about them from THE Journal.

"As states sort out their science standards - many adopting the Next Generation Science Standards and even more going at the work on their own - all of them are expected to adhere to "high-quality" summative science assessments that meet federal requirements spelled out in Title 1 Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

"Achieve, one of the organizations behind the development of NGSS, recently released criteria that can be used by states to develop those grade-level tests and know that they meet federal expectations."

6 From Ready Washington: Today's Science Classroom: Puzzling, Questioning, Wondering, Cooperating, Problem Solving



Check out this great Medium [piece](#) by Washington middle school science teacher Josh Simondet.

"Science is not done in a straight line. Regardless of traditional lessons on the scientific method, rarely are questions about our natural world answered after a single pass through a sequence of hypotheses, experimentation, analysis and conclusion. Science is an iterative process of solving problems and gaining knowledge by questioning, researching, communicating, questioning again, modeling explanations, and back-and-forth, repeating steps as needed. Furthermore, the best science is done cooperatively. This is what the new Washington State Science Learning Standards (WSSLs) are asking of our students: to "do" science differently."

From Education Week: Ways to Integrate Writing Into Science

7 Classes

This [article](#) from Education Week explores the question of how to integrate writing into science classes. A subscription may be required.

"Turn classrooms into inquiry spaces by prompting 'What do you notice?' to record observations after demonstrating phenomena or observing natural events. This question has no wrong answer and continued practice builds observational powers. By sharing writing with peers, students learn what to look for or what was missed. Follow the event, the prompt, and discussion with writing time to record 'What questions do you have?' Unit instruction can build from natural curiosity."



8 New Middle School Unit Receives NGSS Design Badge



[How Can We Sense So Many Different Sounds From A Distance?](#), a middle school physical science unit, is the latest recipient of the [NGSS Design Badge](#), awarded for receiving the highest rating on the EQIP Rubric for Science. Take a look!

9 ICYMI: Happy Fifth Birthday to the NGSS!

In April, the Next Generation Science Standards [turned five](#)! We suggest that you celebrate by exploring the [standards](#) and [appendices](#).

