



Association for Career and Technical Education
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March 13, 2015

Michael Cohen, President
Achieve, Inc.
1400 16th Street NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Cohen:

On behalf of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the nation's largest not-for-profit education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers, I write to communicate our organization's support for the structure and concepts contained within the Next Generation Science Standards.

We appreciate the evidence-based development and balanced approach provided in the Framework for K-12 Science Education, which is foundational to the standards. The Framework emphasizes a "Practices" dimension which ACTE believes is critically important due to its emphasis on the connection of knowledge, skills and other abilities that students must possess with relation to science.

We see the integration of knowledge and various skills competencies in the standards as similar to our own definition of career readiness which incorporates an emphasis on application in addition to the academic knowledge, technical and employability skills that students and adults must possess in order to be prepared for careers and the work environment. In order to be successful, today's 21st century students must be able to put into practice what they have learned.

Despite all of the positives regarding the NGSS, ACTE wishes to assert that states have complete control and authority over their education standards. States are free to join together to develop standards if they so choose. Each state must always retain their authority to develop their own standards, adapt existing standards or adopt an existing set of standards.

Sincerely,

LeAnn Wilson
Executive Director