

NGSS NOW

6 things to know about quality K-12 science education in February 2018



1 NGSS Twitter Poll: What's most helpful for NGSS implementation?



If you aren't following [@OfficialNGSS](#) on Twitter, you missed out on your chance to vote in our first-ever Twitter poll! We know that successful implementation of the NGSS involves high-quality instructional materials, professional development, assessments, and much more, but we wondered which of these was currently top-of-mind for the NGSS community.

According to our non-scientific poll results, 57 percent of Twitter respondents say aligned lessons and units would be most helpful when working to implement the NGSS. Educators and district leaders should take a look at EQUIP for Science, where there are [examples](#) of high-quality lessons and units as well as the [EQUIP Rubric for Science](#) and other resources. Twenty-three percent of poll respondents indicated high-quality assessments would be most helpful, while 20 percent cast their votes for professional development.

If you didn't get to vote in this poll, fear not - we'll be posing additional poll questions in the future. Make sure to [follow us on Twitter](#) so you don't miss out on great resources, tools, and news every day.

2 Design, Selection, and Implementation of Instructional Materials for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Proceedings of a Workshop

In response to the need for more coordination across the ongoing efforts to support the design and implementation of instructional materials for science education, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a public workshop in June 2017. The workshop

focused on the development of instructional materials that reflect the principles of the Framework and the NGSS, and brought together experts involved with developing tools for selection and design of instructional materials as well as curriculum developers and researchers who are designing materials aligned with NGSS. This [new publication](#) summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.

3 UPDATE: Primary Evaluation of Essential Criteria (PEEC) for NGSS Instructional Materials

An [updated version](#) of the Primary Evaluation of Essential Criteria (PEEC) for NGSS Instructional Materials is now available. After receiving feedback from users following the original June 2017 release, this PEEC version 1.1 updates how the five NGSS innovations should be used - most notably by intentionally emphasizing the importance of equity and access for all students as foundational to all five innovations.

Future updates to PEEC will include additional guidance on alignment, sampling, evidence, and more.

4 From EdSource: New science standards a boon for the littlest learners

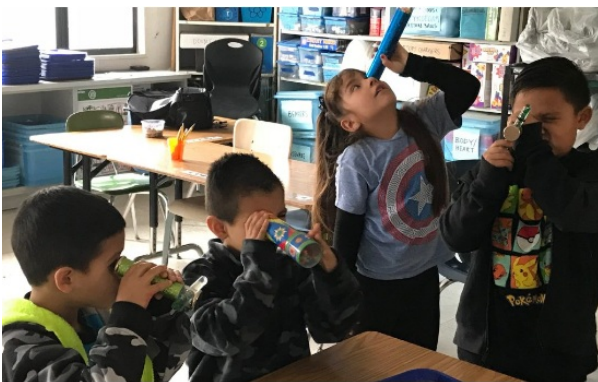


Photo credit: Carolyn Jones, EdSource

A [recent article](#) in EdSource highlighted the potential for the NGSS to improve science education for elementary school students.

"The new science standards, called the Next Generation Science Standards, focus on hands-on classroom projects and broad scientific concepts, and begin in kindergarten. Some elementary teachers say that once they learned the new standards, science became easy and more rewarding to teach, especially to younger children." [Read the full article.](#)

5 Great State Of Minds: Terryville High School

An [article](#) from Fox61 in Connecticut showed how the NGSS are already helping high school students' learning at Terryville High School.

"With the Next Generation Science Standards, we



are looking at making science more in the hands of our students. I think it's better that they're discovering things, that's what science is, and I know my biggest concern is getting them ready for the next steps whether that's college or whatever job they're looking for and they learn best when it's hands on,' [high school science teacher Erica] Archambault said. She talked about how the old school way of lecturing students while they sit there is outdated, and a more

hands-on approach has been working very well." [Read the full article.](#)

6 Reminder: Are your instructional materials designed for the NGSS?

Marketing materials sent to teachers, schools, and districts is plastered with claims of alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards, but developing high-quality instructional materials isn't easy. In addition to the work of the Peer Review Panel, Achieve is now offering unbiased reviews of instructional materials using our EQUIP Rubric for Science. Reviews carefully detail the evidence for how thoroughly the materials are designed for the NGSS and include suggestions for improving alignment. Our goal is to help the science education community understand what the NGSS look like in practice and to help the field define and describe these standards.

[Read more](#) to learn about the the efforts Achieve is making to help consumers make good purchases and for developers to improve the quality of their products.

