



## Preparing for the Next Generation Science Standards in 2013-2014

### Facts and Advice for Washington Science Educators

*Prepared by Washington's Regional Science Coordinators in collaboration with OSPI*

#### Facts about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):

- *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* is the parent document for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- Washington is one of 26 lead states for the development of the NGSS for the nation and expects to adopt them.
- The NGSS are not Common Core "Science" Standards. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS)-English Language Arts (CCSS-ELA) addresses technical reading and writing in science.
- The NGSS documents will identify connections with the CCSS-ELA and CCSS-Math standards.
- Washington will seek opportunities to collaboratively develop cross state assessments for the NGSS.
- New science assessments take three years to develop after adoption of NGSS.
- A Washington State Transition plan is being developed.

#### What Washington science educators should do to prepare for the NGSS:

- Participate in professional learning that focuses on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*.
  - Gain a deep understanding of the Dimensions of the "Framework" i.e., Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, Disciplinary Core Ideas of science.
  - Construct understanding of how the Dimensions are integrated into the NGSS Performance Expectations.
  - Introduce science and engineering practices and cross-cutting concepts into your instruction.

#### Washington science educators should continue to:

- Use instructional materials that align to 2009 WA K-12 Science Learning Standards.
- Be intentional about including WA Inquiry, Application, and Systems standards into instruction.
- Expect your students to use claims, evidence, and reasoning in their discourse and writing about science concepts.
- Use effective science instructional practices, i.e., help students surface prior knowledge, construct understanding, make sense of learning experiences, and promote a positive learning environment and appropriate scientific discourse.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

- How do existing K-12 science instructional materials align to the NGSS?
  - Regional Science Coordinators and OSPI will collaborate with state and national partners to provide guidance for NGSS alignment and instructional materials placement.
- What is the best instructional sequence for secondary courses?
  - See Appendix K of the NGSS for guidance. This is a locally controlled decision.

- When will students be assessed on NGSS?
  - 2016-2017 at the earliest, more likely 2017-2018.
- Who will create the NGSS assessments and what will the NGSS assessment system will look like?
  - There is currently no organization that has received a contract for the system.
- Will students be assessed at every grade level?
  - Not at this time.
- Will there still be a Biology End-of-Course assessment?
  - Yes, for at least 3 more years or until legislation changes.

**How WA Regional Science Coordinators are ready to help you:**

- Disseminate news and information about regional, state, and national level decisions related to the NGSS.
- Connect you to regional, state, and national NGSS resources.
- Help your district with transition plans for the NGSS by:
  - Sharing analysis documents between the 2009 WA K-12 Science Learning Standards and the NGSS.
  - Sharing instructional supports such as the OSPI Moodle, Content-Specific Transition documents, and other resources.
- Provide professional learning to:
  - Understand *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the NGSS.
  - Implement effective instructional practices for the NGSS.
  - Make informed curricular decisions.

**Questions?  
Contact Us!**

**Dr. Ellen Ebert**  
OSPI Science Teaching and Learning  
[breanne.conley@k12.wa.us](mailto:breanne.conley@k12.wa.us)

**Washington’s Regional Science Coordinators**

**NEW ESD 101**  
**Wendy Whitmer**  
[wwhitmer@esd101.net](mailto:wwhitmer@esd101.net)

**Puget Sound ESD 121**  
**Cheryl Lydon**  
[clydon@psed.org](mailto:clydon@psed.org)

**ESD 113**  
**Craig Gabler**  
[cgabler@esd113.org](mailto:cgabler@esd113.org)

**ESD 105**  
**Mike Brown**  
[mike.brown@esd105.org](mailto:mike.brown@esd105.org)

**ESD 123**  
**Georgia Boatman**  
[gboatman@esd123.org](mailto:gboatman@esd123.org)

**ESD 189**  
**Adrienne Somera**  
[asomera@nwesd.org](mailto:asomera@nwesd.org)

**ESD 112**  
**Gloria Ferguson**  
[gloria.ferguson@esd112.org](mailto:gloria.ferguson@esd112.org)

**North Central ESD 171**  
**Mechelle LaLanne**  
[mechellel@ncesd.org](mailto:mechellel@ncesd.org)

**Olympic ESD 114**  
**Jeff Ryan**  
[jryan@oesd.wednet.edu](mailto:jryan@oesd.wednet.edu)