

NGSS Implementation Timeline, Fall 2014

Link to NGSS:

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>

Draft Implementation Plan:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/documents/implndrft072414wmrk.pdf>

Overview

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are K–12 science standards developed through a collaborative state-led process. The NGSS are arranged in a coherent manner across grades and provide all students access to a challenging science education. They are based on the *Framework for K–12 Science Education*, developed by the National Research Council, the staffing arm of the National Academy of Sciences. Every NGSS standard has three prongs: content, scientific and engineering practices and cross-cutting concepts. The integration of rigorous content and application reflects how science is practiced in the real world.

Timeline

In July 2014, CDE released a draft implementation plan for California. It includes three phases:

1. **Awareness-** introduction to CA NGSS, initial planning and development of collaboration
2. **Transition-** building foundational resources, needs assessment, professional learning opportunities for all stakeholders
3. **Implementation-** expanded professional learning support, fully aligned curriculum, instruction, and assessment

Key Timeline Events

- **2014-16:** Revision of Science Framework
- **2014-15:** Early Adopters identified and collaboration established (ongoing work until 2018)
- **2015-18:** Anticipated implementation of CA NGSS in all California schools
- **March 2016:** Anticipated CDE recommendations about science assessment
- **2017:** Anticipated list of K-8 science instructional materials adoption

Issues

While the science framework and implementation plan are not finalized, there are some anticipated issues:

- Decision about middle school science- integrated or subject specific?
- High School Earth Science- currently taught in most schools as a freshman course but intended by NGSS to be a culminating course
- Shift in some topics between elementary grade levels
- Materials and resources for science at all grade levels (lab supplies and space, new textbooks and curriculum which do not yet exist, etc.)
- Unclear timeline for the sunset of Science STAR test in 5th, 8th, and 10th grade