

NGSS NOW

7 things to know in February 2023



1

New Middle School High Quality Unit Posted

In this life science and engineering unit, students explore the important role bees play as pollinators within ecosystems. Students investigate the impact of human activities on wild bee species and discover why a reduction in biodiversity threatens global food security. Confronted with this problem, students make a choice: save the bees or replace them. The unit earned a rating of *High Quality NGSS Design if Improved* by the NextGenScience cadre of expert reviewers.

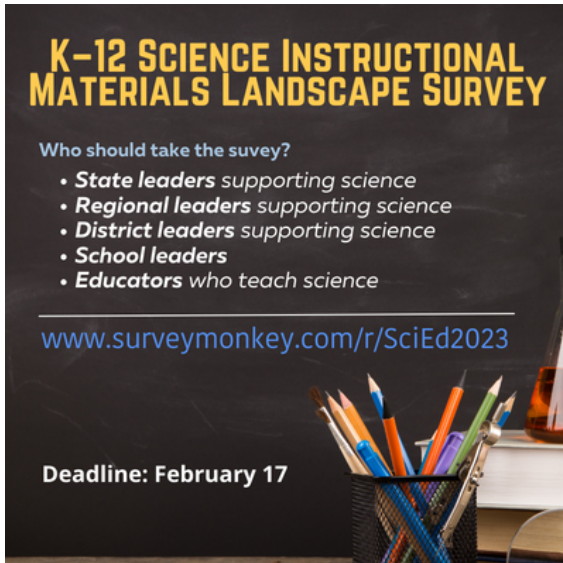


See the freely available Stile unit and corresponding EQulP Rubric for Science evaluation report [here](#).



2

K-12 Science Instructional Materials Landscape Survey



[NextGenScience](#) is conducting a national landscape analysis of district and state K–12 science instructional materials selection and modification. As part of the landscape analysis, this survey aims to collect information about state and district policies, strategies, and resources related to science instructional materials. State and regional leaders, district leaders, school leaders, and educators who support or teach science are encouraged to take the [survey](#) by February 17. Those who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$50 gift card.

Learn more about the survey [here](#) and take the survey [here](#).

3

Blog Post: Cultivating Cultural Competency

A new [On the Same Wavelength](#) blog post discusses what it takes to build affirming science learning environments. The authors share three strategies from the [Promoting Inclusion and Engagement in STEM Learning](#) practical guide to support educators, administrators, and professional learning providers to meaningfully engage students using the language and cultural assets they bring to the classroom.

See the NextGenScience blog post [here](#).



4

Thirteen Ways to Improve Science Education in the U.S.

This report describes the field's progress towards the vision of today's science standards and lays out recommendations for making science education more equitable and effective over the next ten years. Recommendations focus on state academic science standards, instructional materials, professional learning, instruction, assessments and accountability, and pre-service teacher preparation.

See the Carnegie Corporation of New York report [here](#).

5

Upcoming Webinar: How Can a Network of Leadership Teams be an Effective Tool in Changing Science Teaching and Learning?

WEBINAR

PennSEL Network
Pennsylvania Science Education Leaders

How can a network of leadership teams be an effective tool in moving to new science standards?

Register for the Feb 22 webinar to hear insights from PennSEL Network members!

Putting today's science standards into practice is challenging work. In this upcoming webinar, educators and leaders will share takeaways from their participation in a network of leadership teams working to transform science teaching and learning in their communities.

Register for the February 22 NextGenScience webinar [here](#).

6

Insights about Equity and Inclusion in Science Education

The Board on Science Education at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is hosting a virtual series of conversations about insights the field has gained over the past decade, including how approaches to advancing equity and inclusion have evolved and the implications for science education.

Learn more about the February 21 event [here](#).

7

ICYMI: Attending to Race and Identity in Science Instruction

This STEM Teaching Tool provides recommended approaches for science educators to critically reflect on how race and identity affect their practices and relationships with their students. The tool can help educators leverage their students' identities, particularly those of students from Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and provide the space in their classroom to discuss racial and cultural backgrounds.

See Practice Brief 89 [here](#).

