

# NGSS NOW

## 6 things to know about quality K-12 science education in May 2022



1

### Blog Post: Supporting Students in Science as a Way of Thinking — Rather than as a Way of Getting the Right Answer

Instructional design affects what students learn, how they think about science, and how they view their own identity in relation to science.

NextGenScience's latest [On The Same Wavelength](#) blog post explores ways science instructional materials can support students in developing their thinking skills in the science classroom.

See the post [here](#).



2

### Fostering Meaningful Conversations About Equity Grounded in Teacher Practice



This STEM Teaching Tool provides guidance for administrators to engage using the [Conversations about Equity that Link Theory to Practice](#) tool, teachers can reflect on the ways research-based theories around equity and social justice are enacted in their science classrooms.

See the STEM Teaching Tool Practice Brief [here](#).

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### 3

## Including Teachers' Voices in State Policy Decisions

*"Regardless of the topic and charge, states are recognizing the significance of educator voices and including educators in statewide task forces and commissions. Including teacher members in the policymaking process is a start, but it does not guarantee their voices are heard and included throughout the implementation process. One way to show teachers true appreciation, is to honor their work by elevating teacher voices and viewpoints in education policy decision making."*



See the Education Commission of the States article [here](#).

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### 4

## Webinar: Equity in Preschool through Elementary Science and Engineering



In the first webinar of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's series based on its recently released report, [\*Science and Engineering in Preschool Through Elementary Grades\*](#): the report discussed practices and design features that support equitable learning opportunities in science and engineering for Pre-K to elementary grade students.

See the webinar recording [here](#).

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5

## How I was Transformed from an Effective Educator to a Student-Centered and Transformational Educator

In this article, middle school science teacher Dennis Dagounis shares how he transformed his own pedagogical practices and curricular design to be more aligned to the shifts of the NGSS. Dagounis describes how increasing opportunities for students to have discourse, collaboration, and time to figure things out empowered them to take ownership of their own learning and develop skills that can be used across multiple disciplines in their learning journey.



See the New Jersey Education Association article [here](#)

6

## Using Family Interviews to Increase Equity and Engagement in Science

*“Building on the experiences, knowledge, and histories that students bring to class improves learning and engagement. One powerful tool that can enable this is the family interview, which helps teachers and peers value what students already know and creates opportunities for bridging school and home. Interviewing family members about science is*

See the Edutopia article [here](#).



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