

# NGSS NOW

## 6 things to know in November 2023



1

### **New Blog Post: Gaining a Foothold for Science in the Early Elementary Grades: Can Curriculum Materials Play a Role?**



For decades, science has been undervalued across the K–5 grades. A new [On the Same Wavelength](#) blog describes recent research on integrating literacy and science learning in culturally and linguistically diverse elementary classrooms and its benefits for elementary students.

See the NextGenScience November 2023 blog post [here](#).

2

### **The Current State of Next Generation Science Assessment**

This New Meridian white paper discusses the need for improved science assessments aligned with the NGSS, highlighting issues such as cost, expertise, and the complexity of three-dimensional learning. The report calls for increased support for research, analysis of existing content, and a cultural shift to prioritize science education.

See the report [here](#).

### 3

## Workplaces Do It, So Can Schools: Real-World Relevance Keeps Girls In STEM

This article emphasizes the significance of integrating real-world relevance into K–12 STEM education to encourage girls' interest and persistence in the field. It highlights the current underrepresentation of women in the STEM workforce, with women making up only 28% of the industry in the United States, and the benefits of educators highlighting the impact STEM jobs can have on society to motivate and retain more girls in STEM education and careers.



See the Forbes article [here](#).

### 4

## Learning to Find Trustworthy Scientific Information



*“Students are growing up in a different world than earlier generations. Today’s students need to practice in science classes how to evaluate science-related claims they see and hear in an environment saturated with information, both accurate and inaccurate.”*

Read more from Media Literacy Now [here](#).

## 5

### Rural Education Community Walks



To facilitate meaningful science teaching and learning, teachers often make connections to students' local communities. A Community Walk is when a teacher explores their community, whether in a car, on foot, or online, to identify available assets and topics that might be relevant to their students. The NSF-funded STEM STRONG ([Supporting Teachers in Rural Communities for the Next Generation](#)) project developed a template that teachers in rural communities can use to explore their community and use those findings to plan for connections between their curriculum and community.

See the STEM STRONG template [here](#).

## 6

### ICYMI: Citizen Science Projects for the Classroom

This Citizen Science 101 guide can support teachers and leaders in science education to critically examine citizen science projects and evaluate whether these projects can be easily adapted for use in classroom and school settings. The NSF-funded guide was developed by University of New Hampshire in collaboration with elementary educators and provides criteria for selecting projects that align with curricular needs and local contexts, along with resources to facilitate their integration into teaching practices.

See the guide [here](#).





**NextGen  
Science**  
WestEd 



**NEXT GENERATION  
SCIENCE**  
**STANDARDS**  
For States, By States

*Copyright © 2023 NextGenScience, All rights reserved.*

Subscribe to the NGSS Now Newsletter [here](#).