

NGSS NOW

8 things you need to know about the NGSS this month (and a  science fact)



August 2015

Upcoming Webinars

1 Looking for an introduction the [NGSS Evidence Statements](#) and how to use them? [Sign up](#) to attend Putting the NGSS Evidence Statements to Work in Your Classroom, a free web seminar hosted by Achieve and NSTA on Wednesday, August 12th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm ET.

 [Tweet](#)  [Share](#)

2 Interested in learning more about the [Classroom Sample Tasks](#) and how to design your own? [Sign up](#) to attend How to Use the Classroom Sample Tasks, a free web seminar hosted by Achieve and NSTA on Wednesday, August 19th from 6:30 - 8:00pm ET.

 [Tweet](#)  [Share](#)

3 Active Engagement in the Practices

The science and engineering practices (i.e., "practices") allow students to make their thinking visible. [The Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) identified eight important practices that are essential for all students to learn, and discussed how those practices look different over time from Kindergarten to grade 12 (see [Appendix F: Science and Engineering Practices in the NGSS](#) for summaries of what students should be able to do by the end of each grade band for each practice, and see the appendix of the [Evidence Statements](#) for a description of each part of each practice).

The Framework stresses that students need to actively engage in these practices in order to truly understand the disciplinary core ideas (DCIs). When students apply these practices their thinking becomes visible and presents an opportunity for teachers to gauge where the students are in their learning. As such, the practices should never be done in isolation, but with quality content. The practices simultaneously allow students to demonstrate their level of understanding and for teachers to adjust instruction accordingly. For example, when students are able to construct their understanding by asking questions and arguing from evidence, teachers are able to use this classroom dialogue to guide and restructure their instruction.

4 QUESTION
OF THE MONTH 

Q: My colleagues have bound copies of the NGSS. How can I purchase my own copy? Is there a way to print a PDF on my own as well?

A: Hard copies of the NGSS are available from www.nap.edu/ngss. If you choose to print them on your own, you can find PDFs of the NGSS arranged in two ways online [here](#). One arrangement shows the performance expectations listed by [topic](#), and the other lists them by [disciplinary core idea](#) (both arrangements contain the exact same performance expectations, they are just ordered differently).

5 NGSS in the News

[RVCC prepares teachers for science standards](#)

by Raritan Valley Community College,
MyCentralJersey.com
July 27, 2015

"Seventy K-12 educators are spending today through July 31 at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) in Branchburg to learn more about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)."



[Tweet](#) [Share](#)

6 Opinion

[Building an Investigation, NGSS-style](#)

by Tom Hathorn, CORElaborate
July 6, 2015

"I have four main lesson segments in mind. Each segment blurb is followed by Science & Engineering Practices (SEP) and Crosscutting Concepts (CCC) that would be most explicit for that segment."



[Tweet](#) [Share](#)



**SCIENCE
FUN FACT**

On Tuesday, July 14, NASA released [the first photos of Pluto](#) after its probe, New Horizons, traveled over 3 billion miles to collect data and send it back to Earth.

7 Brief: Student-Designed Investigations

Curious about how to get students engaged in planning self-designed investigations? Check out this [brief](#) from STEM Teaching Tools.

STEM
teaching tools

Teaching Tools for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education

8 Standard of the Month

HS-PS2-3: Apply scientific and engineering ideas to design, evaluate, and refine a device that minimizes the force on a macroscopic object during a collision.* (The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea). For a more in-depth look at this NGSS performance expectation and to search for others read more [here](#). Need more context? See where these ideas are introduced in [A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) (page 114).

