

NGSS NOW

7 things to know about quality K-12 science education in January 2021



1 Tennessee District Science Network Task Library and Introductory Webinar

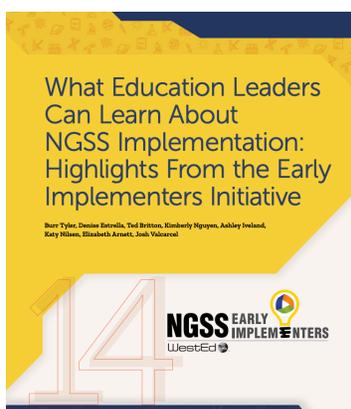
NextGenScience recently released the Tennessee District Science Network Task Library, a collection of 11 classroom tasks spanning all grade bands and science disciplines. The tasks and accompanying resources were designed to deepen educators' understanding of classroom tasks that measure student proficiency in today's science standards. The tasks were designed by educators participating in the Tennessee District Science Network (TDSiN), a group of six districts in Tennessee

working collaboratively to improve their science programs and move towards the vision of science education reflected in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science.



Access the TDSiN Task Library and view the launch webinar [here](#).

2 What Education Leaders Can Learn About NGSS Implementation: Highlights From the Early Implementers Initiative



In the final evaluation report of the California NGSS K-8 Early Implementers Initiative (the Initiative), the developers highlight some of the major findings and takeaways from the six-year initiative to implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in elementary and middle grades. Also included are examples of NGSS instruction that highlight NGSS shifts, some of the tools used by those in the Initiative, and advice from Initiative leaders.

See the full report [here](#).

3 Harvard EdCast: What It Means to Learn Science

In this Harvard EdCast episode, Northwestern Professor Megan Bang and University of Washington Assistant Professor Carrie Tzou "share ways to make science more personal and how to better connect children's learning to the natural world." Dr. Bang and Dr. Tzou highlight how the [Learning in Places](#) project provides opportunities for young learners to learn complex socio-ecological systems by engaging in outdoor learning.



Listen to the podcast or read the transcript [here](#).

4 Science Leaders Speak: The Unique Challenges of Science Education in a Post-Pandemic World

As schools around the country struggle with uncertainty, many states continue their efforts to implement three-dimensional science standards, a difficult process under the best of conditions. On January 25th, join a roundtable discussion of science education leaders to learn how educators can continue implementing next-generation standards while meeting the challenges brought by COVID-19.

Register for the upcoming edLeader panel webinar [here](#).

5 NSTA's Best STEM Books of 2021



NSTA has released its list of 19 Best STEM Books 2021 for K-12 learners that focus on a variety of "real-world issues that cross disciplinary boundaries." The books were selected by volunteer educators in cooperation with the Children's Book Council. The list of winning titles include topics such as vaccines, artificial intelligence, and women in STEM. The books can be used in the classroom and at home to foster students' interest in different STEM topics.

See the Best STEM Books 2021 [here](#).

6 The New Meridian Framework for Quality Review of NGSS Science Assessment Items

Based on existing research such as Achieve's Science Assessment Task Screening Tools and the National Research Council's Developing Assessments for the Next Generation Science Standards, the Framework for Quality Review of NGSS Science Assessment Items identifies features of high-quality, three-dimensional science assessment, which states can apply as they develop their own large-scale

assessment systems. The framework provides guidance for states to evaluate science assessment content, placing emphasis on items that promote equity and inclusion.

See the full framework [here](#) and learn more about New Meridian's development approach [here](#).

7 OpenSciEd Unit 8.3 Adapted Version for Remote Learning

The remote learning guide for OpenSciEd's Unit 8.3 *Forces at a Distance* is now available. Developed by the Louisiana Department of Education with support from the Massachusetts Department of Education, this adaptation of the NGSS Design Badged version of the unit provides guidance, support, and materials to facilitate remote teaching and learning and does not omit lessons from the original version.



Access the materials [here](#).



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