



DATE: April 10, 2014
TO: Arkansas Educators
FROM: Arkansas Department of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Section
SUBJECT: ListServ Message #74: NGSS Endorsement by Arkansas State Board of Education

We are excited to inform you of a unanimous vote by the Arkansas State Board of Education to **endorse** the use of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as a basis for the next stage of our work in the development of a new K-12 Arkansas Science Curriculum Framework. The endorsement authorizes the Curriculum and Instruction Unit at the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to use the NGSS as a guide for our work as we build upon the great body of research and expertise that engaged in the development of NGSS and provides an opportunity for us to continue to work with our educators to make these standards our own.

Committees of Arkansas educators will dive deeper into the NGSS performance expectations for K-12 students, develop middle school pathways, and examine existing Arkansas standards and laws, as well as licensure needs, to create high school courses. Our goal is to prepare our students to know and apply science concepts to real-world situations when they graduate from high school.

This work will take time. The first task for the ADE will be to develop a comprehensive roll-out plan, a detailed timeline, and a communication plan for new science curriculum frameworks. The Curriculum and Instruction Unit will work with representatives from K-12, career education, higher education, industry, community and informal science educators to complete this work. Opportunities will be provided for public input and comment.

As this work progresses, please remember that the current Arkansas Science Curriculum Frameworks and Science Benchmark and EOC Biology assessments will be in place for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond. Updates to this timeline will be included in our communications to schools.

Helpful links:

NGSS – www.nextgenscience.org

ADE – Curriculum Frameworks for science – http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/frameworks/curriculum_categories/science

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

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To be added to the ADE CCSS ListServ please send your name, e-mail address, and district name to abby.cress@arkansas.gov.