



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Johnny Key, Commissioner*

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## **State Board of Education Adopts Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas State Board of Education unanimously voted today to adopt the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8.

ADE acknowledges the work of the 45 Arkansas educators from K-8, career education, and higher education over the past year to create the new Arkansas Science Standards for Grades K-8. The Arkansas K-8 Science Standards Committee reviewed the Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations for Grades K-8 to map the NGSS middle school standards into Grades 6-8. The committee also added to the K-8 standards Arkansas-specific clarification statements and assessment boundaries, created grade-specific learning progressions by topic and disciplinary core idea, and wrote overviews of the content for each grade for teachers.

The Curriculum and Instruction Unit posted drafts of the K-4 and 5-8 standards for public comment from April 15 to May 15, 2015. The majority of the 134 Arkansas respondents read the standards and agreed that the standards are appropriate as written. Several members of the K-8 committee met June 4, 2015, to review the comments, questions and concerns posted by Arkansas teachers and made recommendations for the best course of action to take in response to the field. The public survey comments and responses are available at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/arkansas-k-12-science-standards/arkansas-k-12-science-standards-public-comment-survey>.

The goal of the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards is to prepare students to know and apply science concepts to real-world situations when they graduate from high school and beyond. As this work progresses, the current Arkansas Science Curriculum Frameworks are in place for the 2015-2016 school year. The Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 are set to be implemented in 2016 and for Grades 5-8 in 2017. The Arkansas 9-12 Science Standards Committee is writing new high school science courses this summer with a plan to present those to the SBE for consideration to adopt

in the spring of 2016.

To learn more about the standards, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/arkansas-k-12-science-standards>.

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