

Science Education Highlights

Passage of Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) Legislation

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids, called for the development of rigorous standards for students. The Colorado Department of Education engaged in a year-long process to update its academic standards in English language proficiency and ten content areas: dance, drama and theater arts; mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; science; social studies; visual arts; and world languages. Standards Implementation Begins in the 2013-2014 School Year.

Phase III of the Colorado Sample Curriculum Project

In the fall of 2012, 500+ educators from across the state created almost 700 unit overview samples K-12 within all 10 content areas. These samples (all 700+ of them) are currently available on our website-all authored by Colorado educators. Phase III begins in the fall of 2013 to build out these units and will include learning strategies, resource suggestions, differentiation options, and assessment ideas linked to helping all students master the Colorado Academic Standards.

During a three-day workshop delivered within a district, a team of educators will produce one full instructional unit for one grade and content area in each participating district (e.g., one 1st grade science unit or one high school physical science unit, etc). This process reflects a model of educators working together to plan for the instruction of all students. These samples are created by teachers for teachers.

New State Science Assessment

A new state science assessment measuring the Colorado Academic Standards will be administered online in Colorado for the first time this spring. These assessments are being developed collaboratively by CDE, the assessment contractor, Pearson, and Colorado educators. Elementary (5th grade science) and middle school (8th grade science) assessments will be administered in the spring of 2014. High school (12th grade science) assessments will be administered in the fall of 2014. As the new Colorado-developed science assessment is implemented, CDE will begin transitioning to the new name for the statewide summative assessments – Colorado Measures of Academic Success.

Next Generation Science Standards

On April 10, 2013 the final version of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) was released. A frequently asked questions document about the NGSS can be found at: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/frequently-asked-questions>. To view the Colorado Department of Education's response to NGSS and to provide feedback, please visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coscience/colorado-and-ngss>

What's Next?

- Updated resources for Science Education...coming soon on the website!
- Ongoing Training and Resources for Standards Implementation, Educator Effectiveness and Assessment

Colorado Department of Education

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"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

—Albert Einstein

Helpful Links:

CDE Science Education Webpage:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coscience>

Science Standards:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coscience/statestandards>

Standards Implementation Support:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standardsimplementation/support>

Science Curriculum Samples:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/Curriculum/Science.asp>

Assessment Resource Bank:
www.coloradopl.org/assessment

Stay Informed

The Colorado Science Education Network (CSEN)
<http://coloradoscience.ning.com/>

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