

Free Text Supporting Next Generation Science Standards

With the release of the Science Common Core Standards, officially called the Next Generation Science Standards, many national experts are strongly suggesting that Science educators need to utilize other documents to support the Science Standards. I wanted to take this opportunity to point out the other most significant companion document created by the National Academy of Sciences and published by the National Research Council. It was produced by the National Committee on Conceptual Framework for the New K-12 Science Education Standards. It is entitled "*A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas*". It is available for sale by The National Academies – who serve as advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine but it is **FREE as a pdf download** but only for a short time. Currently, the entire book can be downloaded as a free PDF from the National Academy of Sciences at this site:

https://download.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13165

While the standards are often described as a "technical document," the framework is an accessible narrative that not only served as a blueprint for the standards, but also explains the ideas behind them, makes the case for why they are needed, and says what they aim to accomplish. They created this 300+ document (book) to support in their own words:

“The framework endeavors to move science education toward a more coherent vision in three ways. First, it is built on the notion of learning as a developmental progression. It is designed to help children continually build on and revise their knowledge and abilities, starting from their curiosity about what they see around them and their initial conceptions about how the world works. The goal is to guide their knowledge toward a more scientifically based and coherent view of the sciences and engineering, as well as of the ways in which they are pursued and their results can be used. Second, the framework focuses on a limited number of core ideas in science and engineering both within and across the disciplines.”

I highly recommend you download a free PDF of the companion document to the new CCSS in Science from the National Research Council.

If you need further information please contact:

Barbara Hunter Cox
Director of Teaching and Learning