

Kentucky Academy of Sciences (KAS) Endorsement Regarding the Adoption of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

The Kentucky Academy of Sciences supports the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for the benefit of Kentucky because students in the Commonwealth both need and deserve a 21st century science education, grounded in inquiry, rich in content and internationally benchmarked.

The standards, to replace those adopted in 1996, rely on modern research on science and learning science to identify science that all K-12 students should know. Further, they provide performance standards stating what students at all grade levels should be able to do to demonstrate their knowledge.

Because the standards give proper attention to physical sciences, life sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering, technology and application of sciences and integrating expectations across disciplines and grade levels, the Academy is confident that these standards will lead to scientifically literate graduates ready for college and career armed with an understanding of how science impacts their lives.

The Kentucky Academy of Sciences has confidence in the inclusive, two-step process that led to the Next Generation Science Standards. First, the National Research Council, relying on modern research on science and learning science, developed a framework for K-12 Science Education that identified science that all K-12 students should know. Second, scientists, science educators, representatives from higher education and industry from 26 states, including Kentucky, worked together to develop performance expectations of students stating what they should be able to do to demonstrate they have met the standards. Advisory committees and many stakeholders reviewed drafts of the standards and provided valuable input. The strength of the standards is a result of this inclusive process.

After review and recommendation by members of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences Education Committee, the Board of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences endorses the Next Generation Science ! Standards for the Commonwealth.