

NGSS NOW

6 things to know about quality K-12 science education in August 2018



1 Achieve's Science PRP Meets in the Big Easy

In late July, Achieve's [Science Peer Review Panel](#) (Science PRP) held its summer convening in New Orleans, LA. This team of fantastic educators meets twice a year to make sure the reviews it provides to those developing lessons and units for the NGSS are consistent and of the highest quality. In between in-person meetings, reviewers work together to evaluate lessons and units submitted for review. The PRP has reviewed 34 lessons and units so far in 2018, and eight units have been [posted online](#) as quality examples. At this meeting, 16 more units were evaluated and we expect five more units to be posted within the next month.



Achieve is working hard to unearth and evaluate materials that are designed for what is new and different in the NGSS, and the Science PRP members are the foremost experts in using the [EQuIP Rubric for Science](#) to perform this analysis. If you have materials that you would like reviewed, learn more about what that entails on the [Science PRP website](#). If you're ready to submit materials, [fill out this form](#).

2 NEW: EQuIP Leader Credential

To make the [EQuIP Professional Learning experience](#) available to a wider audience, Achieve and NSTA have partnered to develop an EQuIP leader credential, a digital badge meant to recognize leaders with verified expertise in facilitating EQuIP professional learning. In addition to these individuals being recognized for their expertise, earning the EQuIP Leader Credential also makes a facilitator eligible to deliver EQuIP Professional Learning on behalf of Achieve or NSTA. The EQuIP leader credential is awarded in three levels which certify individuals to facilitate different types of professional learning sessions. An initial cadre of people began the process of earning the EQuIP leader credential at an inaugural EQuIP Leader Credential Institute in New Orleans in July. Stay tuned for more information about how you can tell if one of your professional learning facilitators has a badge, and how you can get involved and earn an EQuIP Leader Credential and become a leader in the field when the opportunity becomes available.

3 NSTA's #Science60 Campaign



The NSTA Learning Center announced a summer campaign that recognizes science teachers' time over the summer as they complete professional learning. Throughout the two months of the campaign, NSTA invites teachers to document their hours of time spent and share what they've been doing this summer to better themselves on behalf of their students on the [#Science60 webpage](#).

4 From The Hechinger Report: Will new standards improve elementary science education?

Don't miss this [article](#) from The Hechinger Report about the impact of the NGSS on elementary science education.

"...Achieve's [Matt] Krehbiel, formerly a high school science teacher in Kansas, believes the standards can make a positive difference for students.

"It's all about kids being able to explain the world around them and being thoughtful about scientific information," Krehbiel said. "If you teach in this way, kids will show an increased likelihood to pursue a career in science, see science as relevant to their lives and show an increased interest in science."



Photo Credit: The Hechinger Report

5 From Education Week: Professional learning can address the equity challenge



This [post](#) from Education Week's PD Watch blog explores how professional learning for teachers can address equity challenges.

"Equity starts with students having access to excellent teachers who can meet their academic as well as social and emotional needs. Every school year, teachers' classrooms fill up with students who have different challenges, strengths, and dreams while, at the same time, teachers are striving to continuously improve their practice to make student learning relevant, interesting, and useful.

"Being part of a learning system and participating in ongoing professional learning is essential for all educators to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills to meet the needs of all students. Professional learning is the key to providing equitable access to excellent teaching."

6 Last Month on Twitter: The Nature of Science

In case you missed it: throughout July, the [@OfficialNGSS](#) Twitter account tweeted out lots of great information about the nature of science. Make sure to follow [@OfficialNGSS](#) for more great content, and check out [Appendix H](#) of the NGSS to learn more about key connections between the standards and the nature of science.

