

What are the facts about NGSS integration in Maryland?

The truth behind some common misconceptions about NGSS and what it means for your classroom.

Misconception	Fact
<p>NGSS constitutes the new science curriculum for Maryland Public Schools</p>	<p>The standards are just that - standards or performance expectations. They detail what students should know and be able to do following instruction but not the actual instruction or curriculum. Most LEAs are in the process of evaluating existing instructional materials and curriculum using the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric and are in the process of adapting existing materials where possible and exploring innovative new materials.</p>
<p>Teachers should already be implementing NGSS in their classrooms</p>	<p>Although MSDE's five-year timeline and plan for implementation of NGSS is a living document, full implementation of NGSS is not expected until the 2017/18 school year. Implementation should be gradual, systematic, and carefully prioritized beginning with classroom instruction and formative assessment then moving to monitoring (large-scale) local and/or state assessments.</p>
<p>There is little support for teachers as they implement NGSS</p>	<p>Professional development and adequate support for teachers will be critical in the implementation of NGSS. According to the most recent NGSS Implementation and Planning Document, MSDE has been working with LEAs to develop NGSS support networks to support teachers, supervisors, and administrators through quarterly Science Supervisor Briefings and the College and Career Ready Conferences held during the summers . The Maryland State NGSS Lead Team and LEA-specific subcommittees continue to provide support. Furthermore, a number of organizations and groups continue to assist in the understanding and implementation of NGSS, including, NSTA, MAST, public and private Higher Ed, Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, and others.</p>
<p>Current Science Assessments (HSA) are being discontinued with the implementation of NGSS (and PARCC)</p>	<p>The biology and government HSAs have not been discontinued. An HSA to PARCC English/Algebra Transition plan was accepted by the Maryland State Board of Education for school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 at the October 2014 State Board meeting. The HSA for Biology (and government) will continue until an appropriate alternative is developed and accepted by the State Board. The current Biology HSA is based on the Maryland Core Learning Goals, therefore in the future a NGSS-based, large-scale assessment(s) will most likely be needed to address the rigorous new standards. At this point in time several states are working collaboratively to develop large-scale summative assessments which may be administered in the 2017/18 school year.</p>

NGSS replaces the Common Core State Standards	Common Core State Standards focus on English Language Arts/ Literacy and Mathematics not science concepts, as NGSS does - Therefore, NGSS does not replace the Common Core State Standards. However, NGSS is aligned with Common Core standards; the "Connections" box of each standard makes explicit connections between NGSS and both the ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Common Core.
It's most important to focus on the 'Disciplinary core ideas' box, as this will inform what the curriculum and instruction will look like.	NGSS requires contextual application of the three dimensions of the standards: Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts. The integration of these three elements is a deliberate and essential aspect of the standards, and all three dimensions inform the development of curriculum and instructional materials

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