

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSL-S) are K–12 science content standards that set the expectations for what students should know and be able to do in science in order to make sense of the world around them and be ready for college, careers, and citizenship. Adopted by the State Board of Education in 2014, as the Next Generation Science Standards, they were renamed as the NJSL-S in May 2016.

**1. The NJSL-S are for ALL students and provide a science education they can use in real life.**

*A strong science education equips students with both an ability to make sense of the complex world around them and foundational skills that are necessary for all careers and life.*

**2. The NJSL-S include the latest advances in science and research about how students best learn science.**

*The NJSL-S are based on the National Research Council’s 2012 document A Framework for K-12 Science Education, which provides updated science content and reflects current research about student learning.*

**3. The NJSL-S were developed by states and their educators.**

*Twenty-six lead states (including New Jersey) worked with a 40-member writing team composed of classroom teachers, working scientists, and education researchers to develop the standards. Each lead state assembled a team of educators, higher education faculty, scientists, and engineers to provide feedback on the draft standards. Additionally, two public review periods captured tens of thousands of comments during development that were used to revise each draft.*

### **Why is a high-quality science education important for all students?**

**4. Instruction based on the NJSL-S provides all students — regardless of background, neighborhood, or previous exposure to science — with learning experiences that deepen their understanding of science and how the world works.**

*When current students graduate from high school, more jobs will require skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) than in the past.*

- 5. The NJSL-S provide a strong science education that equips students with the ability to think critically, analyze information, and solve complex problems — the skills needed to pursue opportunities within and beyond STEM fields.**

*Scientists and engineers have always integrated content and practices in their work, but that has not been the case with science instruction.*

- 6. The NJSL-S not only support students' learning now, but also give students the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world.**

*As citizens, we are asked to make informed decisions about a variety of issues that affect ourselves, our families, and our communities.*

#### **How do the NJSL-S provide a high-quality science education for all students?**

- 7. The NJSL-S allow students to develop their knowledge of science as they progress from grade to grade.**

The NJSL-S enable students to build upon their understanding of science over time, while equipping them with the foundational knowledge needed for success in college, careers, and citizenship.

- 8. The NJSL-S allow students to learn science by doing what scientists and engineers do.**

When students both understand how scientists and engineers practice their craft and have opportunities to carry out investigations and design solutions, they become more engaged in their science learning.

- 9. The NJSL-S allow students to think of science learning not as memorization of disconnected facts, but as a cohesive understanding of integrated and interrelated concepts.**

There are many themes (e.g., patterns, cause and effect, etc.) that bridge all science disciplines; the NJSL-S allow students to connect them in order to support their understanding of science and engineering in a clear and cohesive manner.

- 10. When will the NJSL-S begin to be the focus of teaching and learning in science classes?**

The science curriculum in grades 6-12 must be based on the NJSLS beginning September 1, 2016. They will be implemented in grades K-5 beginning September 1, 2017.