Myth: The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science were developed by the United States Department of Education.

FACT: *The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-S) were developed through a collaborative state-led process. Twenty-six states volunteered to work with the 40 members of the writing team to lead the development of the standards, and each state formed broad-based committees to work on the standards.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S were developed without public input.

FACT: *The draft standards received comments from more than 10,000 individuals during each of two public review periods. These comments came from teachers, school and school district discussion groups, scientific societies, parents, and students. In addition, an expert team composed of hundreds of members representing K–12 educators, administrators, higher education faculty, scientists, engineers, business leaders, policymakers, and key organizations provided confidential feedback during critical points of the development process.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S were developed without teacher input.

FACT: *To develop the standards, the science supervisors in the 26 lead states worked with a 40-member writer team, all of whom were education experts and more than half of whom were practicing K–12 teachers. Thousands of teachers also provided comments to the draft standards during the two public review periods and as part of expert review panels.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S will force schools to adopt a uniform curriculum.

FACT: *The NJSLS-S are standards, not curricula. Local districts, schools, and classroom teachers will continue to determine their own curriculum, including what is taught throughout the year and how it is taught.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S are part of the Common Core.

FACT: *The NJSLS-S are not part of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS only cover mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy whereas the NJSLS-S are a separate set of K–12 science standards that were drafted through a distinctly different process.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S were developed with federal dollars.

FACT: *No federal funding, grants, or formula funding is tied to the adoption of the NJSLS-S nor was used to develop them. The Carnegie Corporation of New York, a foundation dedicated to improving science education in the U.S., provided funding support for the development of the NJSLS-S.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S are too rigorous for students who have no intention of pursuing science after high school.

FACT: *Science is a key factor in students' ability to think critically and innovate. All students need strong foundational knowledge in science to tackle long-term and difficult issues that face our generation and future generations. A strong science education equips students with skills that are necessary for lasting success in their postsecondary lives and careers.*

Myth: The NJSLS-S are not rigorous enough for students interested in advanced classes in high school and beyond.

FACT: *The NJSLS-S does not set a ceiling for student achievement. Students who wish to take advanced coursework will still have the opportunity to do so, and the NJSLS-S will provide them with a solid academic foundation for college-level science courses.*