



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 3, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Curriculum Directors, Instructional Leaders, Science Teachers
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Adoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the adoption of the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-S). Districts are expected to incorporate these few revisions into local curricula by the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

The revisions to the science standards are limited and targeted (four total) and were built on the strong standards already in place. It also introduces refinements and a comprehensive suite of guidance, tools, and professional learning opportunities to support high-quality implementation statewide.

A committee of classroom educators and higher education faculty conducted a focused, six-week review of every science performance expectation. Revisions were recommended only when supported by clear and compelling evidence and were made for only four of the 208 performance expectations (K-ESS3-3, K-2-ETS1-1, 3-ESS3-1, and HS-ESS3-2). The readopted standards sharpen the focus of climate-related learning across grade bands, ensuring developmentally appropriate and contextually grounded instruction.

Guidance Documents and Resources

Even though there are very few changes to the NJSLS-S, the NJDOE is releasing a coordinated set of resources designed to deepen understanding and strengthen instructional practice. Resources are available on the [Standards Transparency and Mastery Platform](#) (STAMP), which provides guidance and tools to help educators build a clear understanding of the standards, expand professional learning, revise curricula, and select high-quality instructional materials:

- **Revisions in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science** – This document details the revisions, the rationale for each revision, and provides Evidence Statements for revised performance expectations.
- **Frameworks for Kindergarten Science, Third Grade Science, and K-2 Engineering, Design, and the Applications of Science** – These resources provide the foundations for the performance expectations, connections with the NJSLS for English Language Arts and Mathematics, and a rubric to support evaluation of student proficiency. These resources complement the existing frameworks for grades 6–8.
- **Framework for HS-ESS3-2** – This framework provides the foundations for the performance

expectations—the basics of what students are expected to learn. It includes connections with NJSLS for English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as a rubric for evaluating student proficiency. It also provides an example of how the updated performance expectation can be integrated with other high school performance expectations to create an interdisciplinary science instructional unit.

- **Science Disciplinary Progressions** – This presents the performance expectations by disciplinary core idea(s) in K-12 learning progressions. Presenting learning standards in K-12 progressions helps educators understand how students build knowledge and skills over time, allowing for more intentional and coherent curriculum design.

Virtual Events

Learning Lounges are opportunities to discuss the revisions, explore the frameworks, and discuss implementation strategies. Please visit NJDOE [Events Registration](#) to secure your spot in a Learning Lounge.

- *Introduction to the Framework for Kindergarten Science* – June 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- *Introduction to the Framework for Third Grade Science* – June 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- *Framework for HS-ESS3-2* – June 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- *Introduction to the Framework for Grades K-2 Engineering Design and Applications of Science* – June 30, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Contact Information

For additional information, contact the Office of Standards at science@doe.nj.gov.