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TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Leads
Renaissance School Project Leads
Principals
Supervisors of Science

FROM: Karin Garver
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SUBJECT: Resources for Science Supervisors

In July 2014, the State Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Science Standards, and in May 2016 became the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSL-S). Implementation of the NJSL-S is now underway in grades 6-12, and grades K-5 will make the transition by September 1, 2017. The New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Teaching and Learning has published numerous resources to assist educators in the challenging work of re-conceptualizing their science curriculum. These documents can be accessed on the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science](#) homepage.

In addition to curriculum resources, supervisors and administrators will have access to tools specifically designed to support them as they manage the transition to the NJSL-S. The following documents provide quick access to information that will help with classroom observations, review of curriculum and instructional materials, and keeping parents informed about how and why the changes in science are being made:

The Science Instruction Companion to the Danielson Framework is currently in production and will serve as a resource for supervisors of science. Science education has evolved from a focus on having students accumulate/memorize knowledge and develop discrete skills to a focus on having students use core ideas in science to make sense of the natural and designed world. The document provides science-specific indicators of high-quality science instruction that are consistent with the NJSL-S. This resource is being produced jointly by the Office of Secondary Education and the Office of Evaluation. The materials are expected to be available next month on the [NJSL-S website](#).

- The [Primer on Science Instruction](#) is a two-page document highlighting some of the essential characteristics of evidence-based teaching practices.

- The [Grades K-5 Storyline](#) serves as one reference when evaluating K-5 science curriculum. Each grade has an example storyline that provides a rationale for the performance expectations (PEs) in each grade. The storylines are organized by Disciplinary Core Idea. The hyperlinked title provides quick access to the complete storyline and its PEs when the user needs greater detail on what is expected of students. For districts that chose to base their revised curriculum on the NJ Model Science Curriculum, the storylines in the model curriculum units have in some cases been modified from the original narratives.
- The [Earth and Space Science in Grades 6-8 Storyline; Physical Science in Grades 6-8 Storyline; and Life Science in Grades 6-8 Storyline](#) focus on the three dimensions of the Performance Expectations (PE). These are the science ideas that students should have opportunities to apply in order to explain phenomena or design solutions to real-world problems. This document should be used in conjunction with the [Primer on Science Instruction](#), which focuses on what teaching, learning, and assessment should look like in a three-dimensional classroom.
- The [Science Model Curriculum](#) provides a framework for the development of a more detailed local curriculum. The courses and units were developed through the work of a consortium of practicing teachers, science supervisors, and higher education faculty. Each unit of instruction includes a guiding question, a unit overview, estimated number of instructional days necessary to complete the unit, and student learning objectives. The educators who developed the second edition of the model science curriculum included the following sections to assist others in transforming their classrooms to meet or exceed the demands of the new science standards.
- The [Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products \(EQuIP\) Rubric for Science](#) provides criteria by which to measure the alignment and overall quality of lessons and units with respect to the NJSL-S. The purpose of the rubric and review process is to: (1) provide constructive criterion-based feedback to developers; (2) review existing instructional materials to determine what revisions are needed; and (3) identify exemplars/models for teachers' use within and across states.
- The [Information for Parents about the New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#) webpage contains four documents that schools are free to use as part of their community outreach. Districts are welcome to link directly to the webpage or to download and customize.

Michael Heinz, science coordinator, is available to support schools and teachers. He can be reached at michael.heinz@doe.state.nj.us.

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