



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2015
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Discussion and Approval of the Michigan Science Standards

Since 2011 Michigan has been involved in an effort to develop new science standards for K-12 students. A significant development effort led to the creation of new standards based upon the Framework for K-12 Science Education. Starting in May 2014 the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) shared a series of informational presentations on the proposed standards and the various implementation considerations, if adopted. The MDE also engaged in dialogue with individual legislators and other stakeholders to inform them of the standards and these implementation considerations. This work culminated in a public comment period and series of informational sessions held throughout the state to address the standards.

The MDE received considerable comment on the updated standards through these public information sessions and conference presentations, as well as open public comment through an online survey. Feedback through this effort has been significant, with nearly 800 responses provided in the survey, and hundreds of questions and comments provided during the information and feedback sessions held around the state. Sentiment provided in these surveys is overwhelmingly positive, including some of the following data from the survey:

- 96 percent of respondents believe it is important that ALL Michigan students have a strong foundation in science knowledge, skills, and application for success beyond high school and for effective preparation in society;
- 76 percent of respondents believe the Framework for K-12 Science Education represents a clear and coherent vision of the discipline;
- 87 percent of respondents believe Michigan students would be better prepared if classroom instruction closely reflected proposed Michigan Science Standards; and
- 65 percent of educators are beginning to implement changes based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education and proposed Michigan Science Standards.

The science standards may be found here: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_Science_Performance_Expectations_v5_496901_7.pdf

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the updated Michigan K-12 Science Standards, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 27, 2015.

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