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Contact: Michael Howard: 651-582-8211

Minnesota Selected to Lead Writing of New National Science Standards

Roseville, Minnesota - Minnesota will be among a group of states selected to lead an important effort to improve science education for all students.

Minnesota is one of 20 states that will lead the development of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which will clearly define the content and practices students will need to learn from kindergarten through high school graduation. The NGSS process is being managed by Achieve, an education reform non-profit organization.

"All Minnesota students should have the tools to excel in science, mathematics and engineering because these skills are critical to compete in our technology-driven global economy," said Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

"We are pleased that Minnesota will take a leadership role in strengthening our science standards to improve student achievement."

The development of the Next Generation Science Standards is a two-step process. First, the National Research Council released a framework that identified core ideas and practices in natural sciences and engineering that all students should be familiar with by the time they graduate. The second step is the development of science standards based on this framework. As a lead state partner, Minnesota will guide the standard writing process, gather and deliver feedback from state-level committees, and come together to address common issues and challenges.

American students continue to lag internationally in science education, making them less competitive for the jobs of the present and the future. A recent U.S. Department of Commerce study shows that over the past 10 years, growth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) jobs was three times greater than that of non-STEM jobs. The report also shows that STEM jobs are expected to continue to grow at a faster rate than other jobs in the coming decade.

Along with Minnesota, the 20 lead state partners include: Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

For more information, visit the Next Generation Science Standards website at www.nextgenscience.org.

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