

Last week ten elementary teachers attended a two day workshop focused on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Workshop attendees received an overview of the standards and began aligning the standards to our current adopted K-5 science and engineering curriculum. Work will continue throughout the next two years leading to the enhancement of our current adopted science curriculum.

During the workshop, attendees identified many areas that fit with our STEM vision and mission. Our past Washington state science standards provide a clear articulation of the essential content for students. NGSS differs by combining content with the essential practices of science and engineering. NGSS state what the students are expected to know and how they are expected to apply their understanding. This sets the stage for 21st Century learning and a foundation for K-12 STEM career pathways. In addition, the NGSS practices incorporates common core math standards within performance expectations thus providing opportunities to integrate and applying their understanding of mathematics