

In April 2013, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), a new set of voluntary, rigorous, and internationally benchmarked standards for K-12 science education, were released. These standards are designed to provide a shift in the organization and presentation of science to more faithfully reflect the interconnected nature of science and engineering as practiced and experienced in the world beyond the classroom. They lay out the core ideas and practices in science that students should master in preparation for college and careers. The Framework for the standards is based on three dimensions: science practices, cross-cutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. Taken in combination, these dimensions make up each standard or performance expectation.

A preliminary comparison of AERO to NGSS demonstrates **that** the benchmarks of AERO are in alignment with the disciplinary core ideas of NGSS. Although these core ideas are similar, placement of AERO performance indicators **may show that** there are some shifts **among some** grade levels. In addition, the science practices identified in NGSS are an expansion of the inquiry goals of the AERO Framework.

Although the content of AERO and NGSS are similar, the changes for science education required by NGSS are significant. It will take time to implement with fidelity the vision of NGSS.