



Minnesota Department of Education
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February 4, 2025

Jennifer Dugan
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Minnesota Department of Education
400 NE Stinson Blvd.
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Minnesota Department of Education
Commitment Statement in Support of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's
Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12.

Our mission at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is to ensure every child receives a quality education, no matter their race or zip code. Work at MDE is focused on student-centered objectives that are guided by the principles of collaboration, leadership, and equity. The first objective is that every student deserves a world class education, and an important strategy for supporting this includes developing and implementing academic standards that reflect Minnesota's students of color and Indigenous students. Our 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science are the first aligned to the Framework for K-12 Science Education, and entered full implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. The Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12 (CASTL-K12) is focused on amplifying effective and equitable implementation of Framework-aligned state standards. This focus is directly aligned to our own work to supporting equitable implementation of our Framework-aligned science standards, and to ensure every student in Minnesota receives a world-class education.

The move to phenomena-driven, three-dimensional science instruction as outlined in our science standards represents a big shift for teachers. Minnesota has 568 school districts and 2,249 schools – both clustered in our urban areas, and spread across a large geographic area. MDE is committed to providing leadership, support, and partnership to every public-school district across the state. The goals of CASTL-K12 are in close alignment with our own goals, and we are committed to coordinated action to achieve high quality science education related to the goals of CASTL-K12.

CASTL-K12 will pursue four primary goals:

- develop a coherent strategy for supporting implementation of science standards across states and districts,
- launch and coordinate a networked community of practice for stakeholders at all levels and across sectors,

- build on and share existing evidence-based policies, tools, and examples, and
- develop a coherent communication and engagement strategy for advancing K-12 science and engineering education broadly.

The Minnesota Department of Education commits to supporting the goals of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Dugan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" and last name "Dugan" clearly distinguishable.

Jennifer Dugan
Director, Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment

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