



McKenzie Snow, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Chris Cournoyer, Lt. Governor

August 29, 2025

The Iowa Department of Education is honored to join the Collaborative for the Advancement of Science Teaching and Learning, reinforcing its dedication to strengthening science education across Iowa. As part of this effort, the Department will partner with the Iowa Space Grant Consortium on an initiative to engage elementary students in authentic and meaningful Earth and space science learning experiences that inspire curiosity, deepen understanding, reflect real-world applications, and career exploration.

This work directly supports Iowa's vision for high-quality science instruction grounded in the *Framework for K–12 Science Education*. Iowa's Academic Standards for Science are derived from this foundational document, emphasizing three-dimensional teaching and learning and student sensemaking of relevant phenomena. By promoting these principles, the Department aims to ensure all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for success in college, careers, and civic life.

In addition, the Iowa Department of Education will actively support the Collaborative's broader goals by:

- Contributing to the development of a coherent strategy for implementing science standards across districts in the state of Iowa and more broadly;
- Participating in and helping to launch a coordinated, networked community of practice that connects stakeholders at all levels and across sectors;
- Sharing and building on existing evidence-based policies, tools, and models that support effective science teaching and learning through department communication and professional development; and
- Assisting in the development of a unified communication and engagement strategy to advance K–12 science and engineering education nationwide.

Through this collaboration, the Iowa Department of Education reaffirms its commitment to advancing rigorous and engaging science education that prepares all students for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Wahlert".

Tina Wahlert

Division Administrator of PK-12 Learning
Iowa Department of Education

Ensuring all students experience a world-class education.