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Members of the Board

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Dear Collaborative for Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12 (CASTL K-12),

The Division of Instruction of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is pleased to accept the invitation to serve as a founding member of the Collaborative. We are looking forward to a productive partnership that will strengthen science instruction, particularly in the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards.

The mission, vision, and theory of action of LAUSD align with the vision of science education, outlined in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education (Framework)*. Below is an overview of how these components align:

- **Mission Alignment:** LAUSD is committed to providing all students with a rigorous, culturally relevant education mirroring the *Framework's* dedication to equitable science education. The *Framework* advocates for providing all students, regardless of background or ability, access to quality science education that prepares them for a scientifically and technologically advanced society. By addressing cultural relevance, the mission aligns with the *Framework* emphasis on engaging students' diverse backgrounds and promoting inclusivity in science education.
- **Vision Alignment:** LAUSD is to eliminate educational inequities and prepare all students to be college and career ready, which aligns to the *Framework's* goal of ensuring students are scientifically literate and prepared for success in a world shaped by science and technology. The *Framework for K-12 Science Education* emphasizes that all students should graduate with a strong foundation in science so they may make informed decisions, pursue STEM careers, and participate as engaged citizens. LAUSD's focus on equity and readiness complements the *Framework's* emphasis on addressing gaps in science achievement and fostering lifelong learning.
- **Theory of Action Alignment:** LAUSD Theory of Action, which prioritizes learning from the community and incorporating lived experiences aligns with the *Framework's focus* on making science education relevant to students' lives and communities. By valuing students' lived experiences, LAUSD fosters culturally responsive teaching and learning, which is essential for engaging students in meaningful science learning. The *Framework* highlights the importance of connecting science instruction to real-world contexts, a principle that LAUSD actively upholds.

Additionally, LAUSD is committed to supporting educators in delivering rigorous, equity-driven science instruction. This aligns with the *Framework's* emphasis on professional development and empowering teachers to implement high quality instruction using innovative strategies such as three-dimensional learning integrating science practices, crosscutting concepts, and core disciplinary ideas. LAUSD's focus on data-driven, equity-centered practices ensures that instruction meets the needs of all learners.

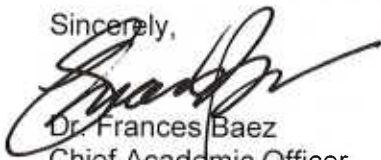
LAUSD's dedication to coordinated action to achieve high-quality science education connects to the goals of CASTL-K12, as outlined in the LAUSD Teaching and Learning Framework Standards. Furthermore, in the LAUSD's five-year Strategic Plan "Academic Excellence" is one of the five pillars that prioritizes high-quality instruction, enriching experiences, eliminating opportunity gaps, and preparing students to be ready for the world. In addition, LAUSD's mission, vision, and theory of action create a supportive foundation for implementing the *Framework's* vision by ensuring that all students have access to high-quality science education that is both inclusive and challenging. Together, they aim to prepare students to thrive in a world where science and technology play a central role.

We believe a strong alignment exists between our commitment to high-quality science instruction and CASTL-K12's four primary goals to:

- develop a coherent strategy for supporting the 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.

LAUSD 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,



Dr. Frances Baez
Chief Academic Officer
Los Angeles Unified School District

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
Board on Science Education
Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12

Instructions for Submitting a Commitment Statement Letter

Each Core Member Organization will complete and submit **one signed and dated commitment letter on official letterhead by January 10, 2024.**

Your statements will appear on the CASTL-K12 website.

Essential Components of the Commitment Statement Letter

Commitment Statement Letters must include:

- Official organizational letterhead
- Date of commitment
- Description of how your organization's mission and initiatives align with the vision of science education in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education*
- Description of your commitment to coordinated action to achieve high-quality science education related to the goals of CASTL-K12
- The following two statements:
 - 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.
 - [Name of Organization] 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.
- The signature of the CEO, Executive Director, President, or other senior official for the organization

On the following pages, you will find examples of commitment statements submitted for another Action Collaborative at the National Academies. Please note that these statements were completed for a different activity and may not include all the criteria listed above and should serve only as examples.

Please contact Lauren Ryan (LRyan@nas.edu) with any questions or concerns.