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Commitment Statement from the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) in Support of the  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12 (CASTL K-12)

January 8, 2025

Since its establishment in 1938, the mission of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) has been to empower educators to provide the best possible biology and life science education for all students. Our commitment to the professional growth and development of educators at all levels has made NABT the recognized “leader in life science education,” and we have been proud to advocate as biology teachers on behalf of biology teachers, their students, and the profession for over 80 years.

In 2010, NABT was invited to convene a group of experts from our community to comment on the draft version of “[A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#).” While reviewing the document, NABT leaders quickly realized the transformative impact the *Framework* could have on K-12 science education in the United States. As a result, NABT invited Dr. Helen Quinn, the chair of the NRC committee charged with developing the conceptual framework, to give a plenary address and meet with NABT leaders at the 2011 NABT National Conference. When the final version of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* was released in 2012, NABT was well-positioned to support resource and professional development initiatives guided by the report.

It is hard to overstate the impact *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* has had on science education. The research-based guidance outlined in the report provides a clear approach for teaching the practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas of science and engineering. While the Framework has led to improved learning of science and engineering for many students, the adoption of Framework-based science standards and teaching practices has been inconsistent, denying too many students the opportunity to engage with science in a way that inspires them and helps them thrive in a scientifically-complex world.

By participating in the CASTL-K12 initiative, NABT will work with other partners to get closer to achieving the initial vision of the Framework. 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 National Association of Biology Teachers 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.** We look forward to working with other teachers, scientists, and allied professional organizations to enhance and improve science literacy for all.

Sincerely,

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