New York State P-12 Science Standards Development, Adoption, and Implementation

Revised April 2020

Phase I
Raise Awareness & Build Capacity

Phase II
Transition & Implementation

Phase III
Implementation & Sustainability

Ongoing curriculum & professional development

Instruction aligned to NYS P12 Science Learning Standards begins…

September 2019/2020
for Grades P-3 and 6

September 2021
for Grades 4 and 7

September 2022
for Grades 5 and 8

September 2023
Continue Phase III transition toward full implementation of the NYS 9-12 Science Learning Standards at the local level

2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-25

December 2016 adoption of NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Standards Become Effective July 1, 2017

March 2018 NYS P-12 Science Roadmap Released

June 2021
Last administration of Grade 4 science test aligned to the 1996 Standards

June 2022
No Grade 4 science test; these students will take new science test in grade 5 in 2023
Last administration of Grade 8 science test aligned to the 1996 Standards

June 2023
First administration of new Elementary Grade 5 and Intermediate Grade 8 science tests

June 2024
First administration Biology and Earth and Space Sciences Regents Exams

June 2025
First administration Chemistry and Physics Regents Exams

State Level Science Assessment Development & Implementation

Science Timeline for Development, Adoption, Implementation

December 2016: Standards Adoption

After a multi-year process of stakeholder engagement of writing, review, and adaption the Board of Regents adopted the **new P-12 NYS science learning standards**. The adopted standards are based on the foundation and the tenets of the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas and the Next Generation Science Standards (New York one of 27 lead states). Two public survey's gathered feedback from various stakeholders on the draft standards as part of the adoption process.

July 2017: Initial Transition to the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards

Initial transition to the new State science learning standards began with the 2017-18 school year. Given the shift in classroom instruction called for by the standards NYSED staff, alongside key science stakeholders and groups in learning communities across the State, continue to work together to raise awareness and build capacity to move science education in NY forward through these new science standards. Ongoing Curriculum and Professional Development P-12 aligned to the standards are crucial components in this process.

March 2018: New York State P-12 Science Roadmap Released

The New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards has been designed to assist and support educators in school districts and other key stakeholders with the transition process leading to full-implementation of the learning standards. The roadmap provides a recommended plan spread-over the next several years that highlights shared goals, objectives and activities to support the NYS Education Department, local school districts, and other key stakeholders with the transition process. Districts are encouraged to tailor the suggested implementation activities to develop specific actions designed to meet district level needs during the transition process.

Grades P-8

September 2019 – June 2021: Phase II Transition and Implementation

This is the start of Phase II where districts should be moving towards full implementation of curriculum and instructional programing aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards at the elementary and middle school levels, to prepare students for subsequent years of science learning. Instruction in the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards began in September 2019 for students in Grades P-3, and grade 6.

June 2021: Last Administration of grade 4 science test aligned to the 1996 Science Standards

This last test administration signals to the field the need for a shift in instruction aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards. Students enrolled in 3rd grade during the 2019-2020 school year should have received instruction in the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards. However, due to the school closures related to COVID-19, the Department delayed the rollout of state assessments aligned to the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for one year, to spring 2023. Therefore, such students will be assessed using the 1996 Science Learning Standards in the spring of 2021 as 4th graders.

June 2022 will be a testing transition year for students in the grade 4 cohort. There will be no grade 4 science test; students in this cohort will take the new science test in grade 5 in 2023.

September 2021: Continue Phase II Transition and Implementation

This date signals the continued implementation PK-3 and grades 6 and initial transition of curriculum and instruction aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for Grades 4 and 7.

June 2022: Testing Transition

June 2022 will be a testing transition year where there will be no grade 4 science test; these students will take the new science test in grade 5 in 2023. This will provide time for teachers and students to adapt to teaching and learning called for in the new standards. It provides the opportunity for continued transition to the 2016 standards without having a cohort of students tested on the 1996 standards 1 year and the 2016 standards the following year.

June 2022 will be the last administration of the Grade 8 Science test aligned to the 1996 standards.

September 2022: Continue Phase II Transition and Implementation

This date signals the continued Implementation of instruction aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for grades P-4 and grade 7; instruction in the 2016 New York State Science Learning Standards begins for Grades 5 and 8. This results in all curriculum and instruction in grades P-8 aligned to the new 2016 standards.

June 2023: First Administration of the new Grade 5 and Grade 8 exams

June 2023 will mark the first administration of the Grade 5 Elementary-Level and Grade 8 Intermediate-Level science examinations aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Grades 9-12

September 2023: Phase III Implementation and Sustainability

This date signals the continued implementation and transition of curriculum and instruction of two high school level science courses that culminate in a corresponding science Regents examination aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for Earth and Space Sciences, and Life Science: Biology. These courses are those typically taught in Grades 9 and 10.

June 2024: First Administration of Earth and Space Sciences and Life Science: Biology Regents Exams

June 2024 will mark the first administration of the Regents Exams for Earth and Space Sciences and Life Science: Biology.

September 2024: Phase III Implementation and Sustainability

This date signals the full implementation and transition of curriculum and instruction of the two high school level science courses that culminate in a corresponding science regents examination aligned to the 2016 New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for Physical Science: Chemistry and Physical Science: Physics. These courses are those typically taught in Grades 11 and 12.

June 2025: First Administration of Physical Science: Chemistry and Physical Science: Physics Regents Exams

June 2025 will mark the first administration of the Regents Exams for Physical Science: Chemistry and Physical Science: Physics.

In Summary:

The above timeline lays out a thoughtful strategic implementation blueprint for science that allows adequate time for the necessary steps leading to the following:

- Ongoing and targeted professional development for teachers
- Curriculum development at expanding levels
- Grades 5, 8, and Regents level assessment development, field testing and implementation