

I am a former educator and teacher trainer. My husband and I have 15 grandchildren, and that is why I am concerned about the Next Generation Science Standards and Framework for K-12 science education, which you are considering. This plan for educating our children is very complex. The Framework is about 400 pages and the Standards with appendices is another 200 or more pages. Having read through the Next Generation Science Standards, it is my belief that they are not objective, and they are highly opinionated with regard to the following:

1. evolution is taught as fact
2. global warming/climate change is taught as fact
3. emphasis of the negative impact of humans on the earth

The NGSS teach theory as fact and only expose students to limited aspects of science and evidence on various topics.

The Framework and Standards address ultimate religious questions and then use a doctrine/rule that permits only materialistic or functionally atheistic answers. NGSS requires a materialistic explanation for any phenomenon addressed by science. This is neither educationally objective nor religiously neutral.

The religious questions young children will be exposed to are: "Where do we come from and what is the nature of life?" The only answer provided by NGSS will be atheistic. Are these questions even appropriate to be addressed through public science education at the elementary level?

Instead of promoting only a materialistic/functionally atheistic explanation about where we come from and the nature of life, science education should focus on teaching the actual state of our scientific knowledge regarding the subject. The origin of mankind should only be taught to mature minds that have attained the knowledge to reach an informed decision about the issue. Students need to have mastered the basics of math, chemistry, physics, earth science and probability theory to be equipped to make an informed choice.

The Framework and Standards also seek to infuse students with a particular political view regarding climate change, sustainability, renewable energy and other environmental matters. These controversial issues are not presented objectively. Example, NGSS focuses on the negative effects of human interactions with the environment and downplays activities that show responsible stewardship of the Earth. NGSS also promotes the view that manmade greenhouse gas emissions are a major contributor to global warming. This is debatable, and NGSS's coverage of the issue lacks balance. The promotion of particular political opinions and positions should not play a role in our students' science education.

Therefore, I am asking this Board to not just delay the vote of the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, but move in a different direction of what science standards will be considered for adoption in Wyoming.

For the sake of my family and all other Wyoming citizens who depend on our public schools, please do not adopt this Plan which appears to promote an atheistic worldview rather than objective science education.

Thank you so much for your consideration.