



**From:** [Reilly, Brian](#)  
**To:** [ED, State Board of Ed](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Comment on the proposed Science Standards  
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Good morning,

My name is Brian Reilly, Director of STEM for Cheltenham School District in Montgomery County, and I lead a committee of local stakeholders interested in developing a new climate curriculum for our district. I have shared the developments of the new standards, and some members expressed concern that the new standards are leaving out environmental literacy. While most of the Proposed Rulemaking document dated June 5, 2021 discusses changes that are necessary to align the standards and assessments (Chapter 4) with changes already adopted in the Public School Code of 1949, the language pertaining to the new standards appears consistent with the language in the actual Integrated Science Standards documents posted to the PDE website for review.

These new standards are written as a series of integrated performance expectations rather than specific standards similar to the current 2002 standards. While there is little-to-no explicit language in the performance expectations, the description of the new standards and meetings I've attended with the PA STEM Coalition indicate a greater emphasis is being placed on Environmental Literacy, Ecology, and Agriculture ... and Sustainability is also being included. While I trust the actual standards as depicted in the example (taken from NGSS) provided in the K-5 document reflect the new PA Science standards, there is insufficient evidence this is the actual direction the state is moving in further developing the performance expectations into full-scale standards. Our concern is that while the narrative in the new standards documents speak to the inclusion of environmental education, specific language of the standards is expected to be more explicit in the learning outcomes for our students as compared to the big overarching concepts stated in the performance expectations. Is the state, in fact, using the Next Generation Science Standards as a model for the new PA Science Standards? Can you provide a relative percentage of the grade level content that will be focused on the environment compared to the same in the existing 2002 Academic Standards?

I think this information will help our community understand the breadth of the changes, and the shift in the emphasis being placed on environmental education.

Thank you for all you're doing to update the long-awaited changes in Science in PA, and for your attention to the above comments.

Brian

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**Brian M. Reilly, Ed.D.**  
*Director of STEM*  
Cheltenham School District  
2000 Ashbourne Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

[breilly@cheltenham.org](mailto:breilly@cheltenham.org)