



From: [NZ Muth](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] Science Standards
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Dear Director Molchanow,

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding changes to the science standards for Pennsylvania schools. As a scientist and a biology professor, I can speak to how critical a proper understanding of science, the environment, ecology, evolution (and how these all interact with human societies) is an ethical imperative in the modern world. We need our current students to understand the scientific method, and the accepted results thereof, if we want them to deliver the promise of a better future for themselves and the families of the future. Poor decisions now will leave us not only behind other states, but in an existential crisis where misunderstandings of science will lead to massive loss of life. This is not a bold or extreme claim. Indeed, the public's poor understanding and appreciation of science is already causing massive loss of life. From the pandemic, to climate change, to crop failures, to food contamination, etc., all these factors have already caused increased morbidity and mortality.

The adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards would be a wise decision for our state currently, and for our collective future.

Thank you for your time.

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