



# California STEM Learning Network

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Date

Dr. Michael Kirst, President, and Members of  
California State Board of Education  
1430 N Street, Room 5111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Kirst and Members of the State Board of Education:

As a group of leaders representing K-12 education, higher education, business, and STEM-rich research and informal education institutions, we urge the California State Board of Education to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards at its next meeting scheduled for September 4-5, 2013.

Adopting the Next Generation Science Standards will help ensure that California leads the nation in providing a world-class science education to *all* our students. These internationally benchmarked standards will give our students the knowledge, skills and education they need to succeed in school and to support our state's economy at nationally and globally competitive levels.

We are particularly pleased that the standards focus on depth of content knowledge rather than breadth, incorporate science and engineering practices, and are scaffolded across K-12 and aligned with expectations for higher education. With this approach, we can expect students to learn more effectively and develop critical applied knowledge and skills for their further education, careers and life.

We are also pleased that the new standards, as organized by the Science Expert Panel and recommended by Superintendent Torlakson, support the delivery of an integrated science curriculum in the middle grades.

While we applaud the Board's decision to allow all stakeholders, especially California's educators, the opportunity to weigh in on these important standards, we encourage the board to act at its next meeting. Immediate adoption will allow the greatest amount of planning time for implementation, including coordination with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, and will send a strong message that California intends to lead the nation in providing high quality STEM education to all of its



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students.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bartels  
Executive Director, Exploratorium  
Chair, CSLNet Board of Directors

James Rosser  
President, California State University, Los Angeles  
Chair, CSLNet STEM Advisory Council

Christopher Roe  
President and CEO, CSLNet

[list additional BOD members]

[list here additional A/C members]