

A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teachers Association President's Newsletter

January 2022



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

Happy New Year! Your executive board will be taking the month of January to meet with our colleagues from the Montana Science Teachers Association and the Wyoming Science Teachers Association to chat about how we can best leverage our resources to support our members as part of NSTA Region XV. We are small states and share many of the same concerns about supporting elementary teachers in providing science instruction to students, finding ways to put science materials and partnerships into our rural school houses, and helping science teachers to feel like they are part of collaborative professional learning communities instead of isolated islands of instruction. This 3-state partnership between our organizations will hopefully lead to some fruitful opportunities for Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana science educators to share and learn from each other!



Idaho Science Standards Update

Many of you have followed the ups and downs of the Idaho Science Standards adoption process since it began back in 2015. The latest update is that the revised science standards that were approved by the State Board of Education back in August 2021 were not included in the Rules Package that was submitted by Governor Little for the 2022 Legislature to approve. This means that the previously approved Science Standards (approved by the SBOE in 2017 and adopted by the legislature in 2018) will be pending before the Legislature in the session which starts later this month. I am told that this happened because a fiscal note was not developed for the work that was done by the Standards Adoption Committee from the summer of 2021 and so no plan was made to deal with the costs of revised assessments, curriculum, and trainings that would follow the adoption of new standards. This will also impact the math and ELA standards that were worked on during the summer of 2021 as well.

In the meantime, there is a chance that Representative Lance Clow, who chairs the House Education Committee, might reintroduce the same measures that he brought up during the very short, November 2021 Legislative session since no action was taken on either of them at that point. This could include a resolution to reject all of the current math, science, and ELA standards AND a bill that requires the State Board of Education to adopt the revised standards from the 2021 committee even though they do not have the fiscal implications dealt with.

Long story short, stay tuned over the next few weeks as our legislators come back into town for actions involving the state of science education in Idaho. If you are interested in having your voice heard, here is the contact information for the Senate and House Education Committee members:

House Education Committee:

Lance Clow (chair) R, dist#24 LClow@house.idaho.gov

Ryan Kerby (vice chair) R, dist#9 RKerby@house.idaho.gov

Judy Boyle R, dist#9 JBoyle@house.idaho.gov

Ron Mendive R, dist#3 RMendive@house.idaho.gov

Gayann DeMordaunt R, dist#14 GDemordaunt@house.idaho.gov

Dorothy Moon R, dist#8 DMoon@house.idaho.gov

Barbara Ehardt R, dist#33 BEhardt@house.idaho.gov

Gary Marshall R, dist#30 GMarshall@house.idaho.gov

Tony Wisniewski R, dist#3 TWisniewski@house.idaho.gov

Codi Galloway R, dist#15 CodiGalloway@house.idaho.gov

Julie Yamamoto R, dist#10 JYamamoto@house.idaho.gov

Lori McCann R, dist#6 LMcCann@house.idaho.gov

John McCrostie D, dist#16 JMcCrostie@house.idaho.gov

Steve Berch D, dist#15 SBerch@house.idaho.gov

Sally Toone D, dist#26 SToone@house.idaho.gov

Senate Education Committee:

Steven Thayn (chair) R, dist#8 SThayn@senate.idaho.gov

Dave Lent (vice chair) R, dist#33 DLent@senate.idaho.gov

Lori Den Hartog R, dist#22 LDenHartog@senate.idaho.gov

Carl Crabtree R, dist#7 CCrabtree@senate.idaho.gov

Jim Woodward R, dist#1 JWoodward@senate.idaho.gov

Daniel Johnson R, dist#6 DJohnson@senate.idaho.gov

Kevin Cook R, dist#30 KCook@senate.idaho.gov

Janie Ward-Engelking D, dist#18 JWardEngelking@senate.idaho.gov

David Nelson D, dist#5 DNelson@senate.idaho.gov



**IDAHO SCIENCE
STANDARDS
IMPLEMENTATION
course**

> Open to all K-12 Teachers
> 9-week online course (3 hours a week)
> No cost for class participation (optional 2 credits with fee)

Idaho Standards Implementation Course Starts Next Week!

Our Idaho Science Coaches teach a free, 9-week online course for teachers across the state, aimed at understanding the Idaho State Science Standards! Register now for the 9-week Idaho Science Standards Implementation Course, starting Jan. 10, by following this link and using the code 5xwepex:

The course is available for two optional credits through [Northwest Nazarene University](#).



The poster features a dark background with a grid pattern. At the top, the logo 'STEM 4 innovation' is displayed, with 'STEM' in four colored circles (blue, yellow, green, purple) and '4' in a red square, followed by 'innovation' in white. Below the logo, it says 'CONFERENCE FOR K-12 EDUCATION @ TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'. Three maroon boxes contain the date 'JANUARY 10, 2022', 'VIRTUAL CONFERENCE', and '#STEM4innovation'. A white arrow points to the text 'TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!'. The URL 'STEM4INNOVATION.TAMU.EDU' is prominently displayed. A paragraph describes the conference's focus on providing K-12 educators with ideas, strategies, and resources. At the bottom, logos for Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, Texas A&M University Engineering, Education & Human Development, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and Texas A&M University Science are shown. The background image shows a woman smiling in a classroom setting.

STEM 4 innovation

CONFERENCE FOR K-12 EDUCATION @ TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 10, 2022

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

#STEM4innovation

STEM4INNOVATION.TAMU.EDU

STEM 4 Innovation focuses on providing K-12 formal and informal educators, administrators, and counselors with ideas, strategies, and resources to encourage students to pursue STEM college and career pathways. The conference is an outstanding day of interactive experiential learning that provides up to 6 hours of professional development while exposing educators to STEM. Attendees will have access to all breakout sessions and downloadable resources for 30 days following the conference.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Engineering
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Education & Human Development
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Science

TEES | Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station

TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

STEM 4 Innovation Virtual Conference from Texas A&M

STEM4innovation focuses on providing K-12 educators with ideas, strategies, and resources to encourage students to pursue STEM college and career pathways. The conference is an outstanding day of interactive experiential learning that provides up to 6 hours of professional development. Attendees will have access to all breakout sessions and downloadable resources for 30 days following the conference!

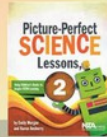
Register today at stem4innovation.tamu.edu!

LAUNCHING INTO LITERACY through SCIENCE!

PICTURE PERFECT SCIENCE BOOK STUDY

Registration ends January 14th: [Picture Perfect Book Study Registration](#)

The **Picture Perfect Science Book Study** will meet on Tuesday evenings at 4-5 pm PT / 5-6 pm MT on 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, and 3/1/2022. To be eligible for the PD credit and the free book, participants must agree to attend all four sessions and complete a short reflection after each.



K- 3 Teachers will receive:

- A FREE grade level book
- 4 guided book studies
- Collaborative Lesson Planning, PD Credit, & MORE!



Launching Into Literacy Through Science!

Book Study for Idaho K-3 teachers, hosted by our Idaho Science Coaches! This professional development opportunity will demonstrate how to integrate science and literacy using the Picture Perfect Science Books from the National Science Teaching Association! Register [HERE](#).



Open Board Positions

We are currently going through some transitions on our board of directors and we are looking for some regional representatives. If you know of someone who might be a great fit for our board OR you personally are interested in stepping into a leadership role, please reach out and we can chat!

District 3: Adams, Washington, Payette, Gem, Canyon, and Owyhee

District 4: Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Lincoln, Cassia, Minidoka, Twin Falls, and Jerome



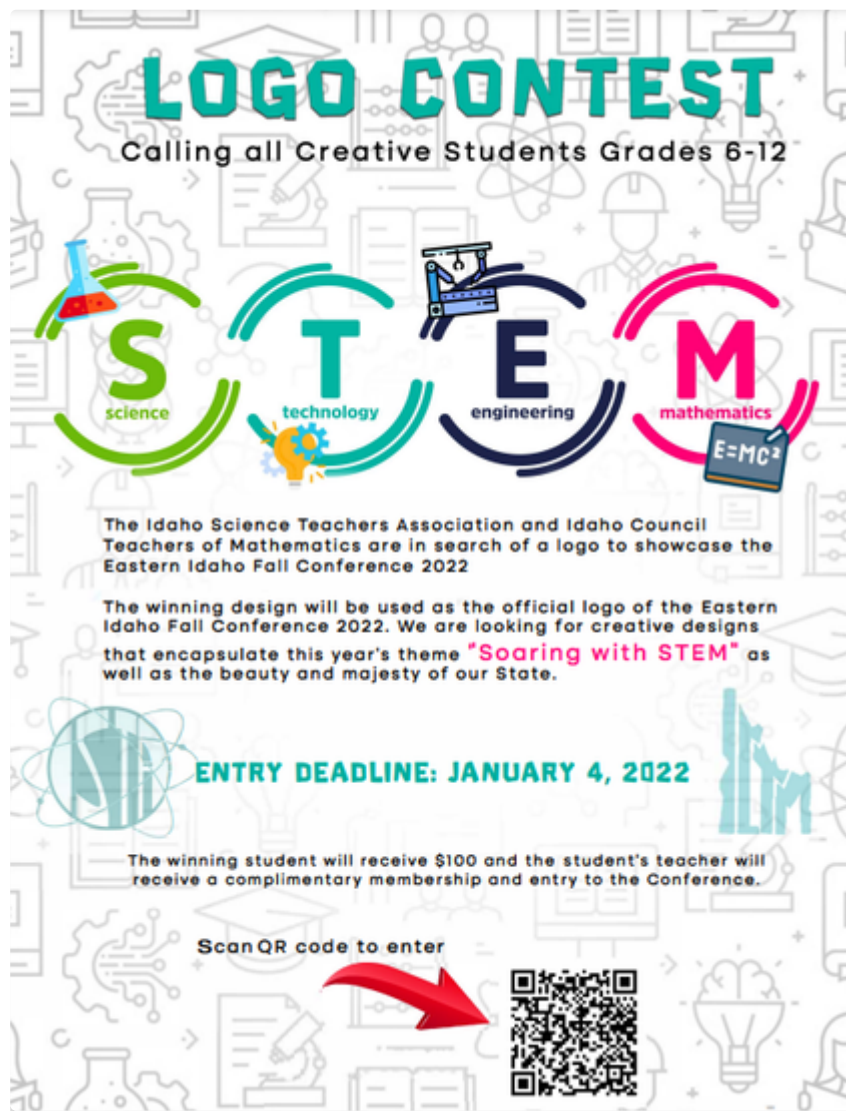
Bylaws Changes for ISTA

Our organization established our current Bylaws and Constitution back in January of 2013. It is time to take a fresh look at these documents and determine if they really represent who we are as an organization and how we do business.

If you are interested in reviewing our current documents and providing feedback to either the ISTA president OR to your regional rep, please be a part of the process of helping ISTA put on a fresh and current "face"! A lot of our existing language sounds kind of like a boiler-plate template for a generic non-profit and we want it to represent us and our membership.

- [ISTA Bylaws](#)
- [ISTA Constitution](#)
- [ISTA Board Member Job Descriptions](#)

Your ISTA board will be meeting all winter to discuss possible changes to the language of these foundational documents with the goal of bringing changes to you for a ratification vote this spring in conjunction with current Bylaw Article IX which states that "These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and a new set of bylaws adopted by a 2/3rd majority vote of the membership. At least 10 days prior written notice setting forth a proposed action and time and place of meeting shall be given to all members." And with current Constitutional Article IX which states "Proposed amendments may be initiated by the Executive Committee or by any one of the districts. This constitution may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of the ballots cast according to the voting procedure of this organization." which occurs either at the annual meeting or by mail as determined by the Executive Committee.



LOGO CONTEST
Calling all Creative Students Grades 6-12

S science
T technology
E engineering
M mathematics


The Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council Teachers of Mathematics are in search of a logo to showcase the Eastern Idaho Fall Conference 2022

The winning design will be used as the official logo of the Eastern Idaho Fall Conference 2022. We are looking for creative designs that encapsulate this year's theme "Soaring with STEM" as well as the beauty and majesty of our State.

ENTRY DEADLINE: JANUARY 4, 2022

The winning student will receive \$100 and the student's teacher will receive a complimentary membership and entry to the Conference.

Scan QR code to enter



Fall 2022 ISTA/ICTM Conference Logo Contest

The Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics are in search of a logo to showcase the Eastern Idaho Fall Conference which will be happening in September at Idaho State University (more details to come soon!). The winning design will be used as the official logo of the conference. We are looking for creative designs that encapsulate this year's theme "Soaring with STEM" as well as the beauty and majesty of our state. The winning student will receive \$100 and that student's teacher will receive a complimentary membership to the ISTA/ICTM conference.




Dr. Melyssa Ferro

 Facebook

 @IdahoScience

Idaho Science Teachers Association President
2021-2022

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