

# A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teachers Association President's Newsletter

April 2022





## IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS

### SCIENCE



### A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

It's April and spring has arrived! Our school calendars are winding down, it is time to start state testing, and plans are already being hatched for the next school year. Take some deep breaths and appreciate all the awesome things that you have done for Idaho students this year!

The big news in the world of science education this month is that we have a "new" set of science standards. On March 24th, [Governor Little signed the bill](#) to discard the 2018 version of the Idaho Science Standards and replace them with a series of re-writes that were done over the summer of 2021. This is the conclusion to a long and tumultuous standards conversation that began back in 2015. While the bill to implement the 2021 science standards received support from many educational stakeholders like the Idaho Education Association, many other stakeholders like our own Idaho Science Teachers Association and the Idaho Conservation League opposed the new re-write on the basis that what we had in place in 2018 was a stronger and better set of standards with more accurate wording surrounding topics like climate change and natural resources. While the new 2021 set of science standards are really not that different from the previous ones, they are different enough that it will impact curriculum, assessment, and professional development -- all of which means a larger price tag for our state to pick up. It is being reported that this standards change will end up costing anywhere between \$9 million and \$60 million. That is a lot of money for a slightly watered down version of what previously existed in our IDAPA code.

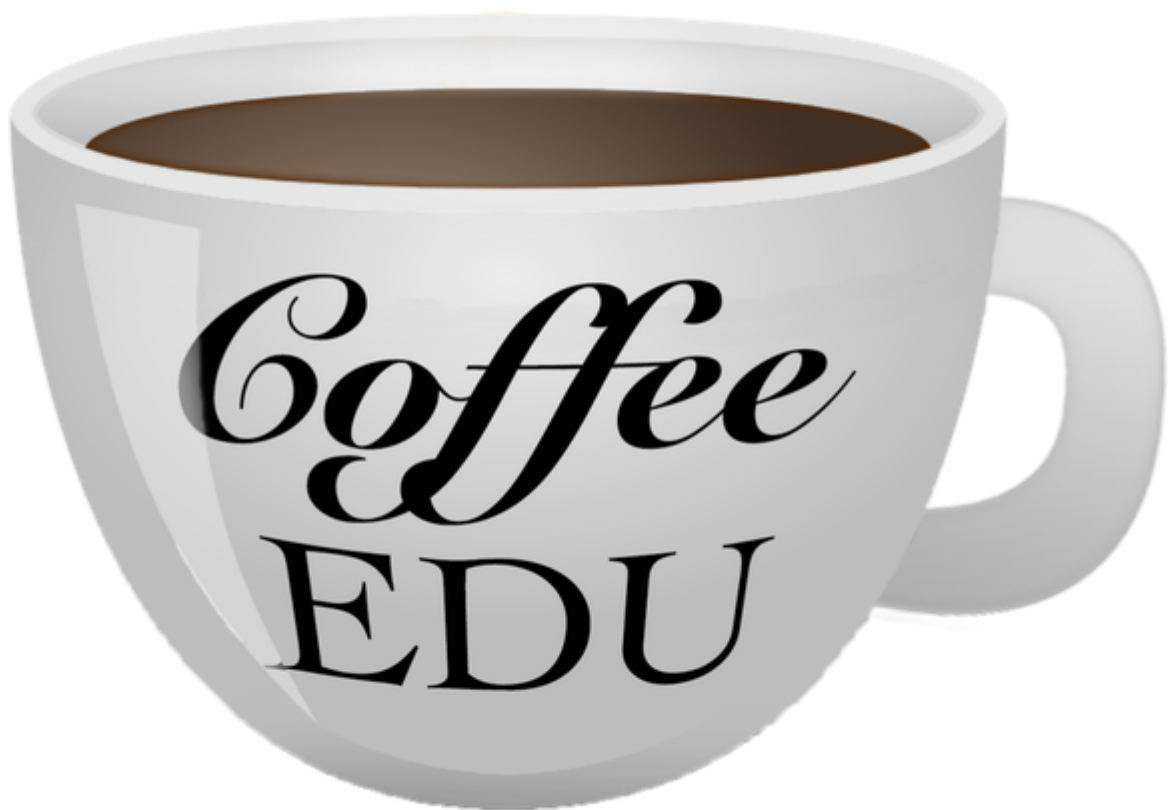
For better or worse, the [new version of the science standards](#) is here so take a moment to peruse them and then stay tuned for opportunities to work with the state and your local districts to implement these standards. There will be opportunities for ISTA members to sit on curriculum adoption committees, help critique ISAT testing items, and plan professional development around the standards.

Our state science standards still include the framework of 3-Dimensional instruction with a recognition of Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting concepts and still align with the ideas behind phenomenon-based instruction. The numbering system has changed slightly from its previous format and the most recent standards adoption committee added verbiage in

several of the elementary standards to address the need for "guidance and support" when introducing new science concepts with younger learners.

An exciting addition to the new standards are references to engineering concepts. While the engineering design process has always been embedded in the Idaho Science Standards revisions, the most recent adoption actually includes explicit references to engineering content. These references are denoted with the abbreviation ETS throughout the supporting content portions of the document.

A big thank you to all of the Idaho Science Educators who have played a role along the meandering and often controversial journey that our state has taken to revise and adopt a set of science standards. From the original team back in 2015, through the re-writes and advocacy of 2016, 2017, and 2018, to the current team of 2020 and 2021, thank you for taking science education seriously and putting your time and talents to work for the students of Idaho!



---

## #ScienceCoffeeEDU - April Edition

Our collaboration with the Montana and Wyoming associations is off to a great start. We had a fun hour of educator real-talk during our March #ScienceCoffeeEDU chat. There were a great mix of educators from all 3 states as well as some guests from other places like California. Topics of discussion ranged from partnerships between higher ed and the K-12 world to the role of communication platforms like Discord in helping create professional networks.

Please mark your calendar to join us again on Tuesday, April 12th from 7-8 pm Mountain time as we chat about issues that matter to science teachers in the Northwest.

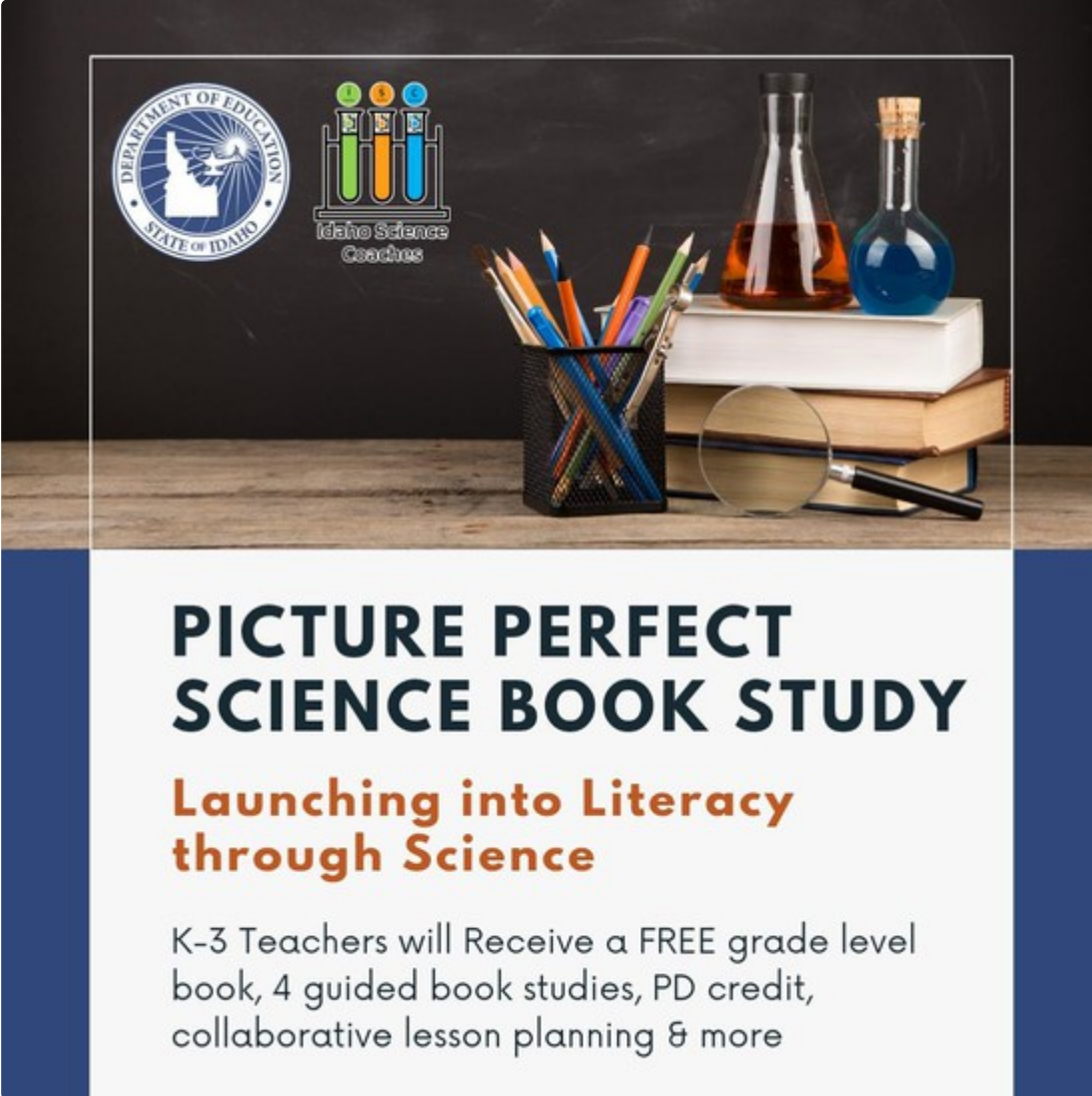


Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97203350063?pwd=d3VGS1hxQVgvOWQ4TTQzRlBtU1N1dz09>

Meeting ID: 972 0335 0063

Passcode: Science



**PICTURE PERFECT  
SCIENCE BOOK STUDY**

**Launching into Literacy  
through Science**

K-3 Teachers will Receive a FREE grade level  
book, 4 guided book studies, PD credit,  
collaborative lesson planning & more

## Picture Perfect Science Book Study - Round 2

Our Idaho Science Coaches are hosting another virtual Picture Perfect Science Book Study after the enthusiastic response to the Study hosted in February! K-3 teachers participating in this virtual book study will receive a grade-level book, 4 guided book studies, PD credit, collaborative lesson planning and more, all at no cost to the participant! Get more info and register [HERE](#). Registration closes on Friday, April 15th.

Come join the conversation about how to integrate science and literacy without sacrificing class time for either content area. The Book Study uses the Picture Perfect Science Books from the National Science Teaching Association and will meet virtually on Tuesday evenings at 4-5 pm PT / 5-6 pm MT on 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, and 5/24/2022.



# 5D MASTERS

## Making Aligned Science Tasks Equitable for Rural Students

---

### 5D Masters - Making Aligned Science Tasks Equitable for Rural Students

Attention Rural Middle & High School Science Teachers

Our team of researchers from CU Boulder and BSCS Science Learning invite you to participate in a study to investigate the effectiveness of an online professional learning course. The course aims to support rural middle and high school science teachers in building classroom assessments that are engaging to students and align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) or your state's 3D science standards. Our researchers will use information from the class to study how educators learn about implementing science standards in rural areas. This study is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

#### What is involved?

- Attend a weekly Zoom class with other rural science teachers.
- Learn to elicit and use knowledge about students' interests to design engaging standards-aligned assessment tasks.
- Develop a supportive community of rural science educators from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Complete interviews and surveys about your experience taking the course.
- Attend approximately 25 hours of online class time on Tuesday evenings from August 30 to December 13, 2022.
- Complete some asynchronous work in between sessions.
- Receive \$1,600 for your participation, certificate of completion, and the opportunity to obtain two non-degree, teacher education graduate credits from CU Boulder.

#### Why participate?

- Through this course, you'll meet colleagues who face similar issues and will have the opportunity to work together.
- You will learn how to apply what you are learning to science classes you are teaching while taking the course.
- The course will be facilitated by experienced researchers and science educators from the University of Colorado, Boulder and BSCS Science Learning.

For more detailed information, check out [this document](#).

To complete our interest form, click [HERE](#).

Watch [this video](#) to learn more about what you'll experience as a study participant.

Questions? Please contact Lisa Carey at [lcarey@bscs.org](mailto:lcarey@bscs.org)

The poster for 'Soaring with STEM 2022' features an orange header and footer. The main title 'Soaring with STEM 2022' is in large, bold, black font, with a small graphic of a person in a blue suit holding a globe with the letters S, T, E, M on it. Below the title, the dates 'August 4 - 5, 2022' and times '8 AM - 4 PM' are listed, followed by the location 'Idaho State University College of Education Building'. A QR code is provided for registration. The poster also lists sponsors: INL (Idaho National Laboratory), Idaho STEM Action Center, and the Idaho State University College of Education. The footer includes the college's website and phone number.

The Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Teachers of Mathematics Council presents:

# Soaring with STEM 2022

August 4 - 5, 2022  
8 AM - 4 PM  
Idaho State University  
College of Education Building

Help your students ignite their learning in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) by attending the "Soaring with STEM" 2022 Conference. This conference is offered in-person and attendees can earn professional development credit through Idaho State University.

REGISTER HERE:

SPONSORED BY:

COLLEGE EDUCATION  
[argogothydsu.edu/~colleducation](http://argogothydsu.edu/~colleducation)  
(208) 240-5342

Idaho State University  
College of Education

## Save The Date and Get Registered for Some High Quality Professional Development!


Our fall conference is coming soon so mark your calendar and save the date! We will be meeting with the Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics at Idaho State University on August 4-5th to "Soar with STEM"! Check out our [ISTA website to register today](#) and get in on the early bird special!

Early Bird Registration (Mar. 1-Jun 1) \$40

Regular Registration (Jun 2 - Jul 30) \$50

After Jul 30 registration can be taken at the door \$60



BOARD MEMBERS	
 <b>MELYSSA FERRO</b> <i>President</i> Spring Middle School <a href="mailto:mferro@cardinalschools.org">mferro@cardinalschools.org</a> 208-455-3305	 <b>TANYA ELMER</b> <i>President Elect</i> Sage High School <a href="mailto:tanya@starede.org">tanya@starede.org</a> 208-350-4225
 <b>NEVE TELFORD</b> <i>Past President</i> Madison Junior High School <a href="mailto:ntelford@msd207.com">ntelford@msd207.com</a> 208-259-2210	 <b>EARLA DURFEE</b> <i>Executive Secretary</i> <i>Vendor Coordinator</i> Century High School <a href="mailto:edurfee@msd205.us">edurfee@msd205.us</a> <a href="mailto:edurfee@gmail.com">edurfee@gmail.com</a> 208-281-0150
 <b>EMILY SARHA</b> <i>Region 2</i> <i>Past Falls School District</i> <a href="mailto:emily.sarha@gmail.com">emily.sarha@gmail.com</a>	 <b>SHANNON KENYON</b> <i>Region 2</i> <i>Lewiston</i> 208-748-3066
 <b>HAILEY BULL</b> <i>Region 3</i> Vallivue Middle School Caldwell	 <b>VACANT</b> <i>Region 4</i>
 <b>LIESEL CHRISTENSEN</b> <i>Region 5</i>	 <b>SHANIE PARKINSON</b> <i>Region 6</i> Madison Junior High <a href="mailto:sparkinson@msd207.com">sparkinson@msd207.com</a> 208-704-0010
 <b>DJ EBERLIN</b> <i>Region 7</i> Seven High School <a href="mailto:dj.eberlin@cooschools.org">dj.eberlin@cooschools.org</a>	 <b>AIMEE STACEY</b> <i>Elementary Representative</i> Light Arts Charter Nampa
 <b>WENDY RUCTI</b> <i>Higher Education</i> <i>Representative</i> Idaho State University <a href="mailto:wrueti@isu.edu">wrueti@isu.edu</a> 208-325-1735	 <b>ANDREA BAERWALD</b> <i>State Department of Education</i>

## Your ISTA Board -- Contact Us!

We have recently seated several new interim board members and we would like to welcome these new faces to our ISTA board!

Shannon Kenyon from Lewiston has joined us as our Region 2 Interim Rep. Hailey Bull from Vallivue is joining us as our new Region 3 Interim Rep. Liesel Christensen, a grad student at ISU, is serving as our Region 5 Interim Rep. And Aimee Stacey from Idaho Arts Charter is our new Elementary Interim Rep.

We also have new representation from the State Department of Education. Andrea Baerwald has taken the job as our SDE Science Coordinator (she is working part-time throughout the spring and will take over the position full time in June).

At the national level, our very own Chris Tayler, from Boise, will be taking over the District XV director position later this summer so we will have a voice at the regional level as well.

We still have one board position open (Region 4). If you think that this would be a good fit for you or you know someone who is a powerful advocate for science education in our state and you would like to nominate them for this position, please let me know!

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

Please reach out to [your board members](#) and let them know your thoughts on how the ISTA can better serve you and your needs as a science educator in Idaho!



## 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 has been 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. We have a work session scheduled for the month of April to hopefully finalize some edits so that we can bring them to the membership for a vote.




**Dr. Melyssa Ferro**

 Facebook

 @IdahoScience

Idaho Science Teachers Association President  
2021-2022

 [idahoscienceista@gmail.com](mailto:idahoscienceista@gmail.com)

 [idahoscienceteacherswix.org/](http://idahoscienceteacherswix.org/)





32	Ge	Germanium	72.61
51	Sb	Antimony	121.75