



California
Science Teachers
Association (CSTA)

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To Whom It May Concern:

Now is the time to support all teachers of science, TK-12, in their understanding of California's Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), adopted by the California State Board of Education in 2013. **This school year, 2017-2018, will be the census field test of the new California science assessment (CAST).** The instructional shifts expected of teachers are both exciting and challenging, and they need your support.

In addition to supports you are offering within your school and district, the best vehicle to empower your teachers is by supporting their attendance at the [California Science Education Conference](#) to be held October 13-15 in Sacramento.

This is the only conference in the state dedicated exclusively to supporting teachers with CA-NGSS. Experts from our [partner organizations](#), such as the K-12 Alliance @ WestEd, California Science Project, Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium are coming out in full force to ensure that this conference isn't just about enriching teachers in their practice and providing important networking opportunities, but also deeply educating them about CA-NGSS.

Unique to our conference are the more than 25 workshops and 4 short courses to be presented by leaders and teachers in California's NGSS K-8 Early Implementation Initiative, a collaboration of eight districts and six charters that began implementing CA-NGSS three years ago. This is the primary vehicle that they will be sharing their implementation strategies, lesson ideas, and learnings.

We have more than 200 [workshops](#), [short courses](#), and [keynote](#) and [focus speaker](#) presentations:

- 32 dedicated to elementary
- 41 dedicated to MS
- 39 dedicated to HS
- 101 with an emphasis on CA-NGSS 3-Dimensional Learning

The conference will include more than 100 exhibitors bringing your teachers the latest innovations in science and STEM education curricular and supplemental resources.



We also have specialized programs targeted to support primary (TK-2) and upper elementary (3-5) teachers as well as science leaders in your district, areas of high need right now:

- Primary and Upper Elementary Pathways – 6 hr. PD offered in collaboration with the California Science Project
- 20 workshops and short courses with an emphasis on Leadership (coaching, site leadership, administrator, professional development)
- A graduate-level unit of credit is available from CSU Long Beach for an additional fee

How to Fund Your Teachers Participation

There are several ways to fund your participation in the CSTA conference. Below are just a few strategies that teachers have employed this year and in years past:

- Use of Title I federal funding targeted to support instructional strategies and methods to improve overall instructional programs for all children in a school.
- Use of Title II, Part A funds to support professional learning for teachers.
- Sponsorship or support from your school's PTA/PTO or similar organization
- Flexible/discretionary funding in the 2017-18 California State Budget
- Your LEA's LCAP – priorities 2, 4, 7, and 8.

For more information on the 2017-18 California State budget and LCAP funding please visit http://www.cascience.org/csta/ngss_pd.asp.

While in existence for more than 20 years, this year's CSTA conference has evolved along with the state's higher standards for science education. Educators attending this conference are sure to return to their classrooms rejuvenated, motivated, and better prepared to commence, or further, the implementation of the California Next Generation Science Standards.

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