



Achieve

| *Perspective Newsletter*

April 2015

Dear Reader,

As states implement college- and career-ready standards and assessments, communication with families, educators, and the public is critical. Parents need and deserve information about their child's performance in school just as teachers need and deserve an understanding about what changes in standards and assessment mean for them. Achieve has developed a number of materials intended to increase transparency and effectiveness of these types of communications, several of which are featured in this edition of *Perspective*. As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for how we can communicate even more effectively. With informed and supportive parents and teachers, we can help all students graduate college and career ready.

Mike Cohen, President, Achieve

Achieve Webinar: Towards a Better Test: Communicating Assessment Results to Families and Educators

April 14, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Score reports from end-of-year assessments have not always been helpful for families to understand how their children are doing or for teachers to improve instruction. Achieve has developed sample [student assessment reports](#) to help states,

districts, and schools better communicate student assessment results to teachers, school leaders, and families.

This webinar will highlight these new model reports and will feature a conversation with state education leaders who are putting effective reporting into practice. We'll conclude with an open dialogue about how to improve score reporting and the major issues that need to be addressed along the way.

To register, please [click here](#). Registrants will receive an email with a link to join the webinar component and a dial-in number for audio. Please forward this invitation along to your colleagues who would find the discussion relevant to their work. We hope you can join us!

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How will science education change with NGSS?

Implications of the Vision of the Framework for K-12
Science Education and the Next Generation Science Standards

SCIENCE EDUCATION WILL INVOLVE LESS	SCIENCE EDUCATION WILL INVOLVE MORE
Rote memorization of facts and terminology	Facts and terminology learned as needed while developing explanations and designed solutions supported by evidence-based arguments and reasoning.
Learning of ideas disconnected from questions about phenomena	Systems thinking and modeling to explain phenomena and to give a context for the ideas to be learned.
Teachers providing information to the whole class	Students conducting investigations, solving problems, and engaging in discussions with teachers' guidance.
Teachers posing questions with only one right answer	Students discussing open-ended questions that focus on the strength of the evidence used to generate claims.
Students reading textbooks and answering questions at the end of the chapter	Students reading multiple sources, including science-related magazine and journal articles and web-based resources; students developing summaries of information.
Pre-planned outcome for "lookbook" laboratories or hands-on activities	Multiple investigations driven by students' questions with a range of possible outcomes that collectively lead to a deep understanding of established core scientific ideas.
Worksheets	Students writing of journals, reports, posters, and media presentations that explain and argue.
Oversimplification of activities for students who are perceived to be less able to do science and engineering	Provision of supports so that all students can engage in sophisticated science and engineering practices.

Source: National Research Council. (2015). *Guide to implementing the Next Generation Science Standards* (pp. 8-13). Washington, DC: National Academies Press. <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/1802/guide-to-implementing-the-next-generation-science-standards>

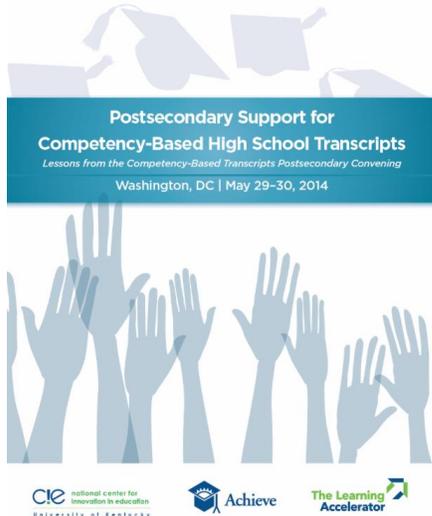
Graphic: How will science education change with the NGSS?

Looking for a one-pager on how science education will change with the NGSS? Check out this [chart](#) from the National Research Council's free downloadable report, [Guide to Implementing the Next Generation Science Standards](#), which details implications of the vision of the Framework for K-12 Science Education.

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New Brief: Postsecondary Support for Competency-Based Pathways



In December 2013, while attending Achieve's Annual State Leadership Team Meeting in Alexandria, VA, leaders from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont issued a call to action to create a national movement for postsecondary leaders to signal their support for proficiency-based and competency-based high school diplomas and transcripts. Achieve has been working to support 12 states, including the five New England states, in advancing their policy and practice through

the Competency-Based Pathways (CBP) State Partnership. In response to this call to action, Achieve partnered with The Learning Accelerator and the Center for Innovation in Education to plan an initial convening of leaders and stakeholders from K-12 and postsecondary education - a convening designed to build guidance and recommendations for what it would take for postsecondary education to signal its support. The conversation that took place on May 29-30, 2014, in Washington, DC, was a first step in building this movement. This brief offers key insights from that discussion.

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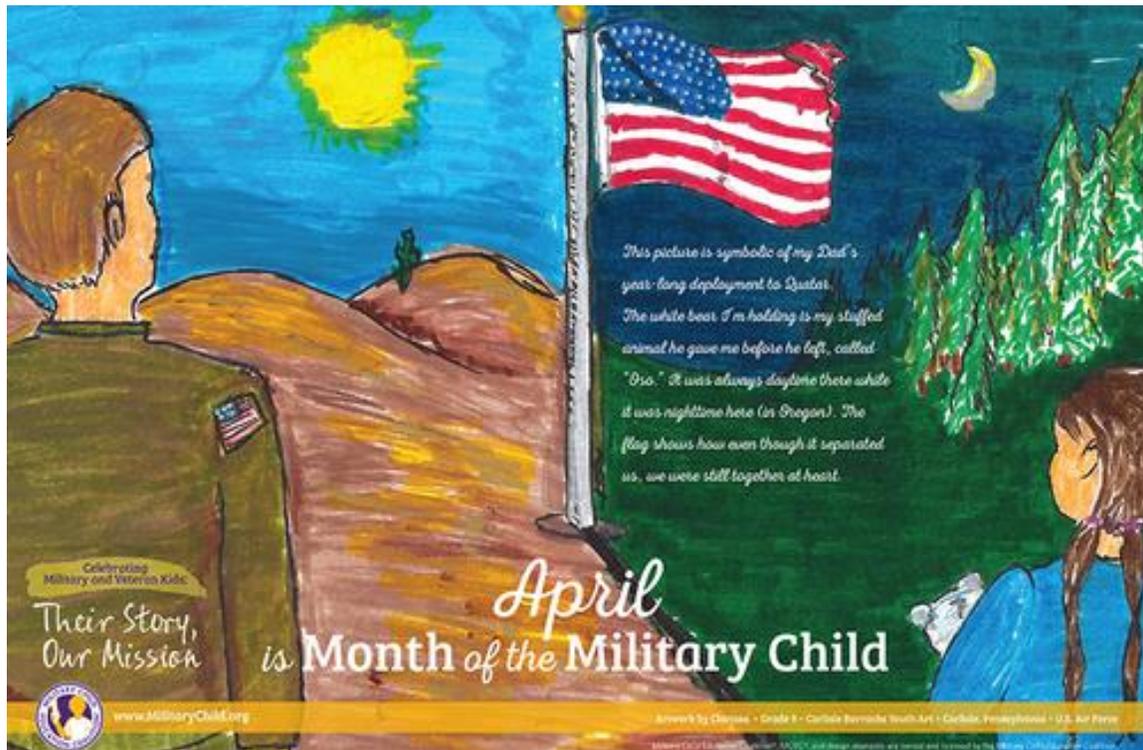
EQuIP Call to Action

Achieve has announced a call to action for educators to submit high-quality units aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As part of an effort to study and strengthen resources to meet teachers' needs, Achieve partnered with Student Achievement Partners and a group of education content experts to identify a number of K-8 high priority standards in English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy and in mathematics for which the need for high-quality and aligned instructional materials is particularly critical.

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April is Month of the Military Child



The Military Child Education Coalition has created a [toolkit](#) and a set of [video resources](#) in support of the Month of the Military Child, which will be celebrated

throughout April. Don't forget to wear purple on April 15 to show your support for military and veteran children!

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Maximizing Competency Education and Blended Learning

In May 2014, CompetencyWorks brought together 23 technical assistance providers to examine their catalytic role in implementing next generation learning models, share knowledge and expertise about blended learning and competency education, and discuss next steps to move forward with a focus on equity and quality.

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New NGSS Teaching Channel Videos



Achieve and Teaching Channel collaborated to produce four videos that present an [overview](#) of the key innovations in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and a deeper dive into each of the NGSS' three dimensions ([Science and Engineering Practices](#), [Crosscutting Concepts](#), and [Disciplinary Core Ideas](#)).

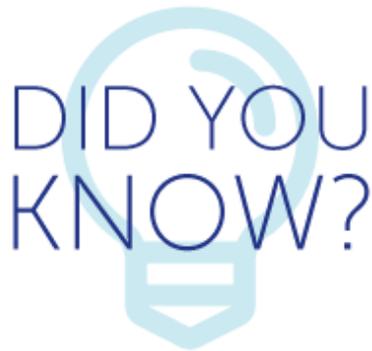
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Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Pruitt!

Congratulations to Stephen Pruitt for receiving NSTA's Distinguished Service to Science Education Award and for becoming an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Council of State Science Supervisors!

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In Achieve's 2014 survey of recent high school graduates,

83%

of students whose highest level of math attainment was LESS than Algebra II needed remedial math in college.

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*All students should graduate from high school
ready for college, careers and citizenship.*

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