Exercise 4: Articulate Your NGSS Vision

**Objective(s) for participants:**

* Answer the five key questions to develop the vision for what the NGSS will accomplish for students in the state.

**Instructions:**

Consider the five key questions and any reference materials or evidence associated with each of them.

Discuss each of the five questions in turn and record the answers on the flipchart template:

* + What are we trying to accomplish for our students and why?
  + How will we know that we have done it?
  + What is holding us back from getting there?
  + Why and how are the NGSS essential to our success?
  + How do the NGSS fit into our overall STEM agenda and more broadly the economic development and growth agenda for our state?
* Discuss and agree on a concise answer to each question.

**Materials needed:**

Copies of questions to consider for each participant

Flipchart paper

* Markers

**Exercise notes:**

A great deal will depend on context and evidence to consider for each of the five questions.

It will be critical for participants to bring information about their broader environment to consider. For example:

* + Public statements from policymakers about aspirations for the state (e.g., the governor’s economic development agenda);
  + Strategic plans or visions developed for the state for college and career readiness in general and/or science in particular;
  + Studies and/or other research on the economic or business landscape in your state regarding STEM skills, current science standards and practices, etc.;
  + State-specific STEM plans; and
  + Documentation on the NGSS and the conceptual shifts.

Consider splitting the team into groups to consider the five questions, and have the groups compare answers.

* Consider assigning the writing of “concise answer” statements to one person or a smaller team after the exercise is completed and general agreement is reached.

**Template for Exercise 4**

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| **Question** | **Potential Answers** |
| What are we trying to accomplish for our students and why? |  |
| How will we know that we have done it? |  |
| What is holding us back from getting there? |  |
| Why and how are the NGSS essential to our success? |  |
| How do the NGSS fit into our overall STEM agenda and more broadly the economic development and growth agenda for our state? |  |