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**TO:** Members of the State Board  
**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *mlowery*  
**DATE:** June 25, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

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**PURPOSE:**

To provide information and background regarding the adoption and implementation of the Final Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Building the talent pool for our nation and our state requires the adoption and implementation of internationally-benchmarked standards for all students to succeed. Maryland's role as a Lead State in the development of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), based on the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education will ensure all students a rigorous, coherent, and content-rich science education that will prepare them for college and careers.

**Conceptual Shifts in the Next Generation Science Standards**

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) provide an important opportunity to improve not only science education but also student achievement. The following conceptual shifts in the NGSS demonstrate what is new and different about the NGSS:

- 1. K-12 Science Education Should Reflect the Interconnected Nature of Science as it is Practiced and Experienced in the Real World.**
- 2. The Next Generation Science Standards are student performance expectations – NOT curriculum.**
- 3. The Science Concepts in the NGSS Build Coherently from K-12.**
- 4. The NGSS Focus on Deeper Understanding of Content as well as Application of Content.**
- 5. Science and Engineering are Integrated in the NGSS, from K-12.**
- 6. The NGSS are designed to prepare students for college, career, and citizenship.**
- 7. The NGSS and Common Core State Standards (English Language Arts and Mathematics) are Aligned.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

With the final release of the NGSS in April 2013, states have begun their individual processes to consider adoption and plan for implementation. The lead states are under no obligation to adopt, only to seriously consider adoption. There is no set timeline for adoption or implementation. As with all K-12 educational standards, the decision to adopt by any given state is voluntary. As of the second week of June, the Boards of Education in the states of Rhode Island, Kentucky, and Kansas voted overwhelmingly to adopt the NGSS. The attached documents provide an overview of a DRAFT Maryland Vision Statement, Key messages, Timeline, and a list of Maryland Stakeholders.

**ACTION:**

Information for consideration of adoption and plan for implementation.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>