



# SCIENCE STANDARDS

**When were GA's science standards last revised?** The GA Performance Standards were phased in by grade and course from 2004-2008

## BY GEORGIANS, FOR GEORGIANS

Though sets of national standards existed for science and social studies, Superintendent Woods worked with the State Board of Education to develop and implement a process to ensure a strong set of Georgia academic standards.

## REVISIONS BASED ON STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

**Surveying Georgia science teachers** Science and social studies teachers across the state were asked to provide feedback for every single standard and element in their grade level or high school course — over 9,000 science teachers responded with participation from every school district. Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) helped GaDOE develop the survey and the University System of Georgia provided a third-party analysis of the survey results.

**Surveying Georgians** Over 2,000 parents, business/industry, post-secondary institutions, students, and taxpayers provided feedback on the current science and social studies standards. SEDL helped manage the surveys and GSU provided a third-party analysis of the survey results.

## REVISIONS BASED ON STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

**Working Committee** Survey results were used by practicing Georgia science teachers to guide revisions made to the standards. 79 teachers served on 11 grade level and high school course-level groups that examined and revised the standards.

**Advisory and Academic Committees** These included business and industry, representatives from Georgia's university and technical college systems, instructional leaders from school districts, nonprofit organizations, and other education-related state agencies.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Characteristics of Science and the Nature of Science** standards are embedded in the science content standards for K-8 and high school courses.

**Engineering practices** are embedded and expanded across all grades and high school courses to bridge the gap between conceptual understanding and practical application.

## GUARANTEED AND VIABLE STANDARDS

Teachers will have a full year to prepare for the new standards with targeted professional learning, resources, and assessment frameworks/items provided before revised standards are expected to be implemented in Georgia classrooms.

**9,237**

Science teachers statewide took the standard-level survey

**11**

Grade level & high school course-level committees mostly made up of teachers

**168**

Georgians served on science committees that revised the standards

- March 2015 Superintendent announces revisions** for Georgia's science and social Studies standards.
- June 2015 Teacher Survey** Over 9,000 science teachers responded to the survey.
- Sept. 2015 External Stakeholder Survey** We heard back from parents, business/industry, post-secondary institutions, students, and taxpayers.
- Oct. 2015 Working Committee** made up of mostly Georgia teachers representing grades K-8 and high school courses, along with post-secondary institutions and business/industry, used the survey results to guide the revisions.
- Nov. 2015 Advisory Committee** made up of teachers, business/industry, parents, organizations, and postsecondary institutions reviewed the revisions and made additional recommendations.
- Nov. 2015 Academic Review Committee** made up of teachers, business/industry, organizations, and postsecondary institutions reviewed the revisions and made additional recommendations.
- Jan. 2016 (Tentative) Standards will be posted** for public review and comment for 60 days.
- March 2016 (Tentative) State Board of Education votes** on whether to adopt the proposed standards
- 2016-17 Full year** of initial teacher training will be provided for the revised standards
- 2017-18 (Tentative) Full implementation** of the K-12 Georgia Standards of Excellence for Science.