

### Science Standards Testimony

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify this afternoon – my name is Chris Taylor and I am the current K-12 curriculum supervisor of science and social studies in the Boise School District. I am also a member of the committee that worked on these new science standards the last two years. I am here to testify in favor of ALL the new Idaho science standards.

- The science standards that are being proposed are based on science skills (verbs) not just the content (nouns). These new standards allow for the integration of both “knowing science” and “doing science”. The goal is to have all students K-12, be actively involved in science by Asking questions, Developing and using models, Planning and carrying out investigations, Analyzing and interpreting data, Constructing explanations, Engaging in argument from evidence, and communicating this information to others. These are the skills and practices that real scientists use every day in the field, and we want the students in our schools to be actively involved in science like scientists. These new standards will require “practicing” science in place of memorizing facts like mentioned in the current science standards.
- Our current science standards document was originally adopted in 2001 with few significant changes in the interim. In the last fifteen years, there have been significant advancements in science and technology; therefore, I see updated science standards are necessary.
- Our current standards also fail to adequately link math and English Language Arts practices to key scientific applications. Throughout the new Idaho science standards – language arts and mathematic thinking are incorporated making science truly an interdisciplinary approach.
- As a committee we worked diligently to make the new Idaho Science standards contain a planned scope and sequence of science practices and science content that spirals from kindergarten all the way to high school.
- My teachers have been using these proposed standards in the Boise School District the last two years and when I go into classrooms; our students are actively involved in science. Just this week I saw second graders creating models to explore water erosion and then designing a physical structure to help prevent wind erosion on their sand castle , junior high physical science students were finishing collecting data from a Newton’s law experiment and then using their data to create Excel spread sheets and graphs to explain the relationship between force, acceleration and mass, and high students in an environmental science classroom were analyzing ice core data taken from a group of scientists in the artic to make their own claims on explaining geologic events that occurred in the past.  
We know that Inquiry-based learning methods are a best practice in the field of science education and these methods are embedded in the proposed science standards yet they are missing from current the Idaho Science document.

In closing my teachers and I feel that Science classrooms offer a unique opportunity for students to practice 21st century learning skills that will enable them to be more productive in their future endeavors. **ALL** of the new Idaho science standards incorporate these skills and allow are students to DO science!

Thanks Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for taking my testimony in favor of the proposed New Idaho Science Standards. I am happy to stand for questions: