Please accept the comments from Texas Instruments in response to the DOE request for public comment for science standards.

Texas Instruments (TI) is an innovation company employing problem-solvers collaborating to change the world through technology. We believe education fosters the growth of individuals, of companies, and of economies. To equip today’s generations to become tomorrow’s scientists and capable workforce, we must grow the pipeline of science, technology, engineering and math literate students. By applying science education to real-world issues, TI believes both teachers and students experience a deeper understanding and better comprehension across disciplines, including math and science.

The majority of students entering college in the U.S. are not ready for college-level math or science. They often haven’t learned how to apply math or science to actual situations. TI does not participate in the review of state standards or state education policy, however, we strongly advocate for educational practices that give all students multiple experiences with the process of ‘doing science’.

Curriculums that bring STEM subjects to life in everyday learning environments can open students’ eyes to potential careers in the many STEM fields that power today’s world economies. And even for students who don’t choose technical careers, STEM skills are survival skills for kids today, and an incomplete understanding of STEM is an incomplete understanding of the world.

Lessons that make connections across math, science and engineering help students apply their work in a meaningful way and demonstrate that learning can be fun. TI is a longtime supporter of taking an integrated approach to technology, science and math disciplines. As an example, we know that robotics teams and/or integration of citizen science into the classroom have proven to be engaging ways for students to solve problems.

We recommend that the Maine Department of Education embed more classroom practices with teamwork and problem solving through relevant and rigorous expectations for K through 12 science and math performance. The integration of science practices, cross-cutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas as envisioned in the Next Generation Science Standards is the right next step to prepare Maine’s students for success in the future STEM workforce.

Thank you for considering TI’s comments during this open feedback period.

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