To whom it may concern,

I am an educator, a mother of two young boys and a scientist at heart. I taught under the "Maine learning results" for six years from 2002 - 2008, got done to have a family, returned to the workforce as an informal science educator with the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, then returned back to the high school science classroom in Dexter in 2015.

I have met and talked with experts from around the nation, several of them helped to build and design the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). As we move into the future, our students should be given the absolute highest quality education we can provide them. The NGSS and the Framework behind them are built to prepare our students for the world of the future. Where facts and information are readily available, the process of science becomes more critical for students to understand. The eight practices that the NGSS are built on are critically important to produce students who have a solid understanding of how the world around them works and more importantly how they can impact the world. Our district has recognized the benefit of using these updated standards and several years ago our school board adopted their use for our district.

Clarity, consistency and rigorous standards are what our students deserve. We owe it to them to prepare them and assess them in ways that will prepare them for a future that is far from certain. They need to know how to ask questions, build models, problem solve, understand data, create and test ideas, and be challenged to communicate and work together. They do not need to memorize a bunch of facts to spit back on a test. If we want our students prepared for the future, we need to get them ready today.

I would ask that the Next Generation Science Standards be adopted as the new Maine Learning Results standards so that we can all move forward with the best available tools and information to help our students be successful in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If I can help in any other way, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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