"At this point in time the NGSS are not part of the Maine science standards, the Maine Learning Results (MLR). More than 75% of districts across the State of Maine have adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) locally either through official school board approval or in practice in classrooms with approval from administrators - but the State standards are still the same as they were back in 2007. Many districts have already adopted the NGSS as their high school graduation standards and as such are directing professional development dollars toward NGSS implementation. Local dollars, time, and effort have already gone into moving toward a future where students learn to “do science”.

Schools in Maine have not agreed on what major science standards to support, or what proficiency looks like. We have much more work to do before we can effectively decide what standards to choose, how to implement them, and then how to assess them. "Those local dollars to support the NGSS" were spent prematurely. The NGSS gives no new opportunities to do science, but gives plenty of new opportunities to sell something additional to the schools. If the NGSS came with a proven curriculum, lessons, rubrics, and resources, that would be respectable, but until then, it seems to be just another gimmick that distracts us from what is actually needed in working with students today. Trying to both implement proficiency based grading and the NGSS without agreeing on a proven curriculum, lessons, rubrics, resources, and what standards to measure is a very flawed approach.

Kevin Crafts
"A mind at peace, a mind centered and not focused on harming others, is stronger than any physical force in the universe."