Dear Science Standards Review Committee:

I write to encourage the State of Maine to look to the Next Generation Science Standards as we revise our Maine standards.

The NGSS offer strong learning opportunities for students because they integrate science skills right in with the content, as well as integrating cross-cutting thematic concepts. While the current Maine Learning Results do include science skills, they are not assessed at the state level and are treated as separate stand-alone learning goals. Wouldn't it be great if the Science MEA didn't have to say on the title page that it assesses Standards D and E, leading one to the impression that standards A - C (skills) were somehow less important.

Maine was a lead state in developing the frameworks that led to the NGSS. If we as a state were able to put our ideas, thoughts and input into these standards from the beginning, why shy away from them now?

A survey from the Maine Science Teachers' Association indicates that the majority of Maine's school districts have already implemented NGSS in some way. If so many teachers, administrators and school boards across the state have recognized these standards' usefulness and power for science education, surely it would make sense for the state to assess these standards that the professionals in the field are endorsing and using.

I strongly encourage the State of Maine to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards because they offer a better system for learning and for preparing our students than the current Maine Learning Results for science.

Thank you,

Tabby Dionne
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Brunswick Junior High School