Reasons of adopting NGSS

- Internationally, research papers of science education usually refer NGSS as the national standards of the U.S. People outside the US assume all states adopted NGSS. It would be a surprise to find Maine is not.

- It is confusing for school teachers to refer to two standards – Maine Learning Results and NGSS while teaching as they are different.

- The MLR was printed in 2007. It is a time to revise the standards based on the NGSS.

- The Science Content of the MLR is good though some areas need to be made clearer. However, the scientific and engineering practices, and the crosscutting concepts which are the two important dimensions in NGSS are missing in MLR.

- The History and Nature of Science is unique in MLR as this is not much mention in the NGSS. This part is worth keeping.

- The format of MLR should be rewritten. At present, all the science content areas are written from PreK-2 to 9-Diploma. A separation document should be written for each grade band. More detailed information can be included such as at what level the concept of mass and weight should be introduced.

- A suggested teaching guideline should be written to list out in detail the topics that need to be taught at a certain grade band. This will help the teachers a lot.

Written by Carole Lee, University of Maine at Farmington
September, 2017.