



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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Utah Updates K-5 and 9-12 Science Standards

Engineering Standards Included; Updates Add Coherence, Progression Throughout School Years

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education voted today to update the state’s grades K-5 and 9-12 Science standards with new [Science with Engineering Education \(SEEd\) standards](#). The new standards will provide coherence and progress throughout a student’s elementary and secondary school years and will blend with the [grades 6-8 SEEd](#) standards approved in 2015.

Utah teachers will be offered training on the new standards during the 2019-20 school year. The standards will be implemented during the 2020-21 school year.

“[The Nation’s Report Card](#) shows Utah eighth graders outpace their peers nationally in science,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “These updates, including more emphasis on principles of engineering, will help keep our students on the cutting edge by engaging in application to real world problem solving.”

This update marks the first update in K-2 science standards since 2010; in grades 3-5, biology, chemistry, and physics since 2002; and in Earth science since 2012.

The new standards are progressive throughout schooling. For example, kindergarteners will be encouraged to observe and evaluate weather and human reaction to weather in grade-appropriate terms, e.g., sunny, cloudy, cold, rainy. By third grade, that shifts to climate patterns, e.g. when do we expect it to be hotter or colder, wetter or drier? By fifth grade students begin looking at the way weather affects the Earth, e.g. erosion. In Earth science students begin exploring atmospheric processes that transport matter and energy across the planet.

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