

To make the shifts that today's science standards demand, educators and students need access to **high-quality instructional materials**.



District should carefully evaluate instructional materials for NGSS design. This process is most effective if it begins by engaging education stakeholders from across a community in meaningful dialogue to learn their views about the requirements for quality materials. A review process that starts with clear criteria — collecting evidence from the materials and evaluating that evidence for NGSS alignment — can promote evidence-based decision making that leads to selecting the best possible materials.

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOL DISTRICTS CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A NEW SCIENCE CURRICULUM?

In spring 2020, Tony Harris, NGSS Implementation Leader for Tumwater School District, was tasked with leading his district's selection process for science materials.

Harris found himself with a tight budget and an even tighter timeline — four weeks. He knew his team's recommendation would determine the curriculum Tumwater middle school teachers would use for the next eight years, and he knew that the curriculum designed for Washington's new state science standards would look very different from the materials the district had adopted seven years ago. Some teachers were more familiar with the new standards than others, but nobody could agree on exactly what the ideal curriculum would look like.

While planning for their review meeting, Harris and his team of science teachers learned about the NextGen TIME process. NextGen TIME (Toolkit for Instructional Materials Evaluation) is a suite of tools and processes that helps educators analyze and select materials, using rigorous criteria and scoring guidance. Developed by BSCS Science Learning, WestEd's K–12 Alliance, and Achieve, NextGen TIME is both a resource to ensure educators select quality materials and an approach to professional learning.

After gathering more information about NextGen TIME, Harris and his fellow science educators were convinced they needed to rethink their approach to science curriculum adoption. They asked district leaders for additional time and funding for their team to meet, emphasizing the complexity of the process and the importance of their decision. The district granted their request. The timeline on the following page illustrates the Tumwater School District's journey to adopt a new middle school science curriculum.

With the support of NextGen TIME, the Tumwater School District is now on its way to successfully implementing new science instructional materials in all of its middle school classrooms.

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Tumwater School District Review Process Timeline

APRIL 2018

Tumwater School District decides to adopt new science instructional materials.



June 2018

Two educators and a district leader attend a NextGen TIME Workshop to prepare for their review process.

July 2018

Tumwater's core science team and its adoption team come together and create a timeline for the process.

August 2018

Core science team attends three-day NextGen TIME Prescreen session.

September 2018

Core science team and adoption team participate in a three-day NextGen TIME Paperscreen training.

September 2018

Adoption team applies the NextGen TIME Pre-screen process across 10 materials. Using the Prescreen results, the adoption team identifies the top three materials for the NextGen TIME Paperscreen.

November 2018

Core science team designs a plan to pilot for the top two materials identified by the Paperscreen process and identifies a unit from each to pilot.

December 2018–February 2019

Educators pilot one unit from the two final materials. Core science team members collect and organize the resulting data.

March 2019

Core science team and adoption team members review data from the Pilot. The committee reaches consensus on the best materials.

April 2019

The Tumwater Science team hosts a parent night to share information about the new materials.

May 2019

The adoption team presents its recommendation and findings to the School Board. The recommendation includes comprehensive evidence from the Paperscreen and Pilot.

June 2019

The School Board approves the committee's recommendation for adoption.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Teachers begin using the new middle school science materials.



Visit <https://nextgentime.org/> to learn more about NextGen TIME.

About NextGenScience

NextGenScience, a project at WestEd, works alongside educators to transform science teaching, learning, and leadership through equitable and evidence-based approaches to reviewing classroom instructional materials, fostering meaningful partnerships, and developing system strategies for coherent science programs. Learn more about our work: ngs.wested.org.