

# SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

== SEPTEMBER 2021-SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION ==

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SCCOE SCIENCE TEAM

The SCCOE Science team has changed quite a bit over the last 2 years and we wanted to take the time to re-introduce ourselves.

### WHO IS THE SCCOE SCIENCE TEAM?

Jenn Mutch has been with SCCOE and iSTEAM for almost three years. This is her 18th year in education with several of these teaching elementary and middle school math and science. She considers herself to be an NGSS nerd and enjoys supporting educators with science implementation and curriculum. Environmental Literacy and Sustainability is also a passion for Jenn and she is part of the County Office of Education Innovation Hub for the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) and is bringing this work to Santa Clara County. She loves her daily walks with her dog Mikey and spending time in nature.

Tara Sikorski is the newest member of the iSTEAM Team! She joins our team with a wealth of knowledge and practical experience as an NGSS classroom-based educator (including distance learning), district TOSA, and Instructional Coach. She is passionate about providing students with opportunities to see themselves as scientists not only in the classroom but also in their everyday experiences. Tara is a nature-loving National Park enthusiast and likes to spend time outside on hiking trails or the ski slopes.

### WHAT DOES THE SCCOE SCIENCE TEAM DO?

We are here to support teachers and administrators in their implementation of NGSS through coaching, professional learning, and strategic planning.

### HOW CAN THE SCCOE SCIENCE TEAM HELP OUR DISTRICT/SCHOOL?

Feel free to reach out to our team via email or phone.

Jennifer Mutch at [Jmutch@sccoe.org](mailto:Jmutch@sccoe.org)

Tara Sikorski at [Tsikorski@sccoe.org](mailto:Tsikorski@sccoe.org)

We are here to help!

## NGSS NOW NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

# NGSS NOW

7 things to know about quality K–12 science education in September 2021



## Upcoming Events

### GRADING FOR EQUITY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)

Santa Clara County Office of Education invites all TK-12th grade educators, TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment), instructional coaches, and district/school site administrators to the Grading for Equity CoP.

During this Community of Practice (CoP) we will:

- Reflect upon current grading practices and how they support/hinder a growth mindset
- Explore equitable grading practices and how these practices impact students
- Learn strategies to make grading more equitable

**Grading for Equity Community of Practice (CoP)**

Santa Clara County Office of Education invites all TK-12th grade educators, TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment), instructional coaches, and district/school site administrators to the Grading for Equity CoP.

During the Community of Practice (CoP) we will:

- Reflect upon current grading practices and how they support/hinder a growth mindset
- Explore equitable grading practices and how these practices impact students
- Learn strategies to make grading more equitable
- Continue to build an understanding of standards-based grading
- Analyze the role homework plays in grading

Participation in the Community of Practice (CoP) includes:

- A year of Grading for Equity by Joe Fustler
- Exclusive Q&A session with Joe Fustler

**Dates:**  
Thursday, October 7, 2021  
Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
Thursday, November 18, 2021  
Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

**Time:** 4 to 5:30 pm - Core Work  
5:30 to 6 pm - Networking

**Location:** Virtual

**Audience:** TK-12th Education, TOSAs, Instructional Coaches, and District Level Administrators

**Grade Levels:** TK - 12th grade

**Cost:** FREE

**Registration:**  
<https://us.ericthecloud.com/2021/>

For more information, please contact:  
Teri Bishop, Administrative Assistant - [teribishop@scclousd.org](mailto:teribishop@scclousd.org)  
Tara Wheeler, Science Coordinator - [tarawheeler@scclousd.org](mailto:tarawheeler@scclousd.org)



# 2021-2022 ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

**REGISTER HERE-ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY COLLABORATIVE**



1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131  
[www.sccoe.org](http://www.sccoe.org)



## 2021-2022 Environmental Literacy Leadership Collaborative

The Environmental Literacy Leadership Network is a collaborative that will explore ways to infuse environmental literacy into classrooms and schools.

We will develop a vision for environmental literacy and sustainability, build partnerships, and connect formal and informal educators in Santa Clara County.

**Dates:**

Thursday, September 23, 2021  
Thursday, October 21, 2021  
Thursday, November 18, 2021  
Thursday, January 20, 2022  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
Thursday, March 24, 2022  
Thursday, April 21, 2022  
Thursday, May 19, 2022

**Time: 3 to 5 p.m.**

**Location:**  
Virtual via Zoom

**Audience:**  
TK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, History/  
Social Science Teachers, Health  
Teachers, Science Teachers,  
TOSA's, Instructional Coaches,  
Informal Environmental Educators,  
and Community Based Partners

**Grade Level(s):** TK – 12

**Registration:**  
<https://na.eventscloud.com/618910>

**For more information, please contact:**

Jennifer Mutch • Science Coordinator • (408) 453-6691 • [jmutch@sccoe.org](mailto:jmutch@sccoe.org)

## 2021-2022 TOSA AND INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES NETWORK MEETING

# REGISTER HERE- TOSA & INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES NETWORK



1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131  
www.sccoe.org



## 2021-2022 TOSA & Instructional Coaches Network Meeting

Santa Clara County Office of Education invites all Coaches, Mentors and TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment) to the: **2021- 2022 TOSA & Instructional Coaches Network Meetings**

- Develop your leadership skills as you learn more about supporting teachers with content, pedagogy, and technology.
- Network with other instructional leaders across Santa Clara County.
- Explore how to support teachers with Project Based Learning (PBL), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), integration of content areas, equity, and inclusion.

**Dates:**

September 21, 2021  
October 19, 2021  
November 16, 2021  
January 18, 2022  
February 22, 2022  
March 22, 2022  
April 19, 2022  
May 17, 2022

**Time: Noon to 2 p.m.**

**Location:**

Virtual via Zoom

**Audience:**

TOSA's, Mentors, Coaches

**Grade Level(s):** TK – 12

**Registration:**

<https://na.eventscloud.com/618909>

**For more information, please contact:**

Jennifer Mutch • Science Coordinator • (408) 453-6692 • [jmutch@sccoe.org](mailto:jmutch@sccoe.org)

# Partner Workshops & Events

## CA NGSS STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION

Online Professional Learning-Building Student Sensemaking Through Disciplinary Literacy



## CA NGSS Statewide Implementation

Online Professional Learning  
Building Student Sensemaking Through Disciplinary Literacy

**REGISTER AT [CANGSS.ORG](http://CANGSS.ORG)**

## CALIFORNIA SCIENCE EDUCATION (CASE) CONFERENCE

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE EDUCATORS (CASE)**



## THE TECH INTERACTIVE

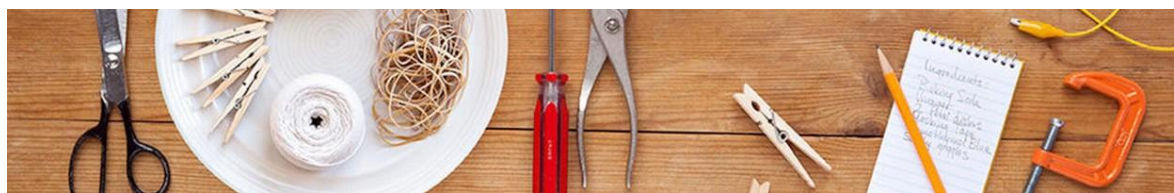


## VIRTUAL LEARNING AT THE TECH

[Virtual Learning at The Tech | The Tech Interactive](#)

The Tech At Home: [Fun STEAM Activities | The Tech at Home](#)

## EXPLORATORIUM- LEARNING TOOLBOX




## MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM LEARNING AT HOME RESOURCES

Monterey Bay Aquarium

LOGIN FOR MEMBERS SHOP

VISIT ANIMALS JOIN & GIVE ACT FOR THE OCEAN FOR EDUCATORS

# Learning at home



**Support children's learning at home for grades PreK through 12.**

These online courses and family-friendly science activities encourage a sense of wonder and connection to the natural world while teaching important science concepts.

Love our educational resources? Support us with a donation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS DAYS

Earth Calendar or Eco Calendar



## Teacher Opportunities

**CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PRESENTS LOW FLOOR, HIGH CEILING: MAKING SCIENCE TASKS MORE SPACIOUS (GRADES K-12)**



Virtual Teacher Workshop

Low Floor, High Ceiling: Making Science Tasks More Spacious (Grades K-12)

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

3pm - 5pm Pacific Time



How might we design tasks for students that involve easy access points for all learners, and the potential for extended thinking? How can this approach foster a positive science identity for all students? In this workshop, participate in example activities and consider how to bring these ideas into your own classroom.

This workshop is designed for teachers of grades K-12, and to be valuable for educators teaching online, hybrid, and in in-person situations. All educators are welcome.

[REGISTER HERE FOR LOW FLOOR, HIGH CEILING](#)

## Partner Resources

[STEAM TEACHING TOOLS CLICK HERE TO READ](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW - STEM TEACHING TOOLS - Navigating the Political Dimensions of Climate Change Teaching and Learning](#)

## NAVIGATING THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TEACHING AND LEARNING



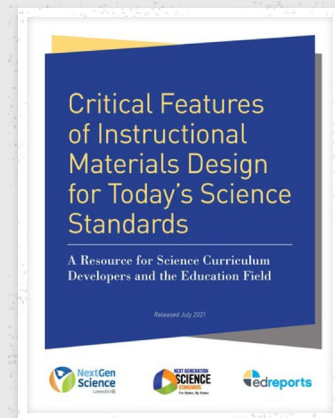
## SCIENCE CURRICULA NEW RESOURCE

Critical Features of Instructional Materials Design for Today's Science Standards:

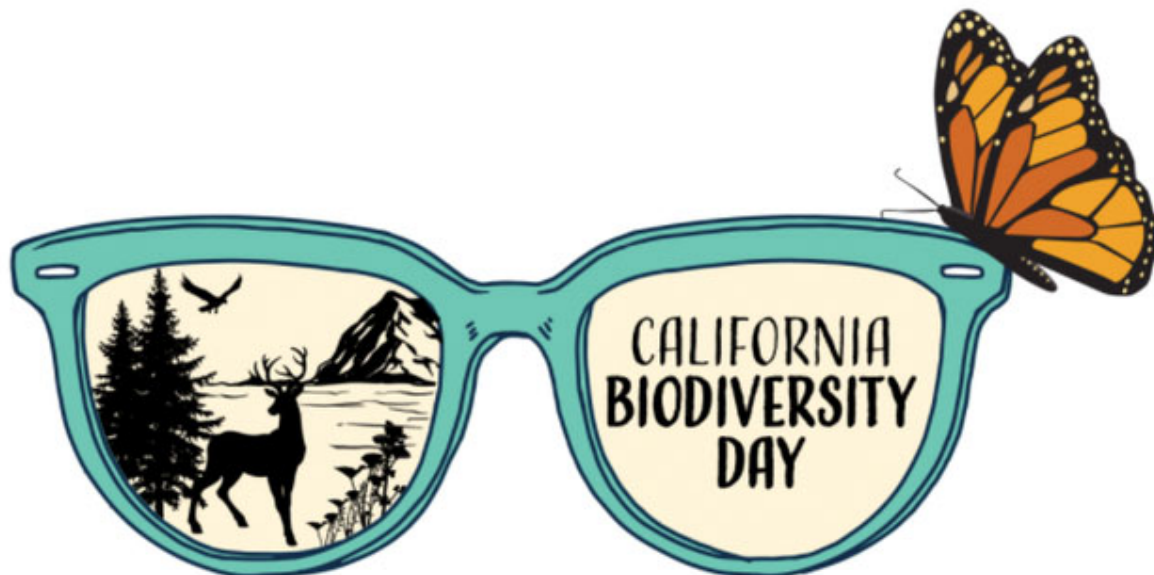
A Resource for Science Curriculum Developers and the Education Field

Today's science standards have initiated a significant shift in all parts of the science education system. As a result, science instructional materials are also changing. Educators, school and district administrators, and developers of instructional materials need to be able to develop a common vision of high-quality curricula that will prepare students for success in school and beyond.

This resource is jointly authored by EdReports and NextGenScience to illustrate critical design features of science instructional materials and provide common language for describing high-quality materials.



[CLICK HERE TO READ THE RESOURCE](#)



EVENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, UNCATEGORIZED

CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY DAY BY DOCUMENTING BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR SPACES, SEPT. 4-12

## Biodiversity in Your Spaces A Statewide BioBlitz

An inquiry-based learning activity to build environmental literacy for middle and high school students

September 4-12, 2021

Learn more at [www.calgeography.org](http://www.calgeography.org)



*With what species are you sharing space?*

A BioBlitz is an activity where many people join together to make observations of biodiversity in an area.

This is your chance to learn more about the natural world by identifying wild organisms that can be found in and around your home, school, and neighborhood. Humans modify the environment in many ways, but where are species surviving on their own terms?

During this week of celebrations, join with other Californians in appreciating and supporting the biodiversity around us.



global education  
PROJECT



**CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY DAY**

# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY COMMUNITY BASED PARTNER HUB

## ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY COMMUNITY BASED PARTNER HUB

A new website that features Community Based Partners that provide environmental education based experiences.



**SCCOE**

<https://www.scc-enviro-ed.org/>



**WALDEN  
WEST**

<http://www.waldenwest.org/>



**CAELI**

<https://ca-eli.org/>



**SMCOE**

<https://eeproviders.smcoe.org>



**SANTA CRUZ  
COE**

<https://sites.google.com/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/professional-learning>



**SJCOE**

<https://www.sjcoescience.org/environmental-literacy.html>



## VALLEY WATER

<https://www.valleywater.org/>  
Distance Learning Resources:  
[Distance Learning NEW FOR 2020 | Santa Clara Valley Water](#)



## EVOLS

<https://www.evols.org/>  
Distance Learning and COVID Modified Resources:  
[2020/21 Programs \(COVID Modified\) | Environmental Volunteers - Environmental Volunteers \(evols.org\)](#)



## LIVING CLASSROOM

<https://www.living-classroom.org/>

**More Environmental Literacy Resources and Partners Featured on the SCCOE and SMCOE Environmental Literacy websites above.**



## ISTEAM- SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

@sccoe

The mission of the Science Department is to provide service and support for all educational stakeholders. We offer workshops, conferences, and student events that promote the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Science explores and explains phenomena around us. It is a way of gaining, organizing, applying, and conveying knowledge of that phenomena. Having science as one of the core contents in K-12 education is vital as it influences our culture and has allowed society to flourish.

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4084536587

sccoe.org/isteam/science/Pa...

## SCCOE SCIENCE GOOGLE WEBPAGE

For even more resources, workshops and upcoming conferences, please visit our webpage. We are updating this weekly. Please also let us know if you have any events or workshops that you would like to share.

