

Status of Science Standards and Testing, July 2015:

An Update from your Friendly Northwest Arkansas Science Specialists

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Questions? Just email Lesley and Virginia. We are here to help.

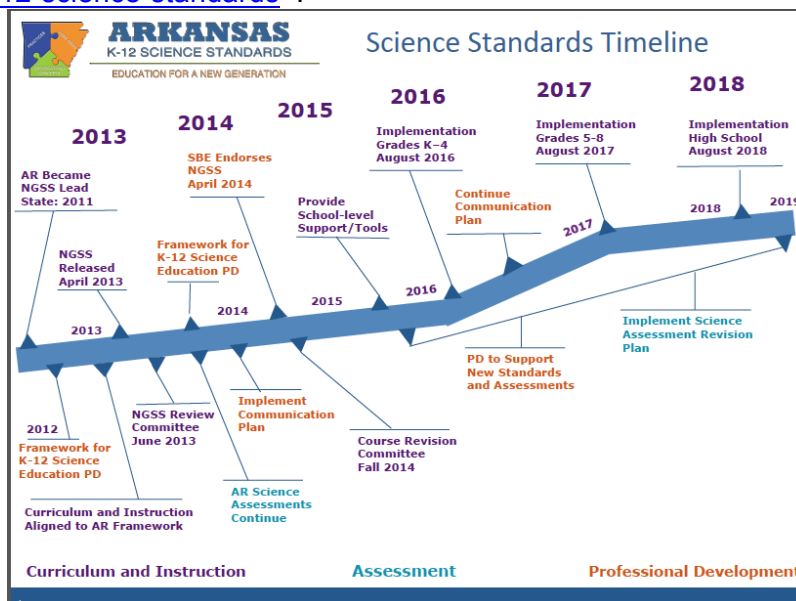
New K-8 Science Standards Have Been Adopted:

On June 11, 2015, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the new Arkansas K-8 Science Standards. All standards K-8 **have been broken down into grade levels**. (In middle school, they are no longer only chunked together as middle school standards. Now, 6th, 7th and 8th grades have grade-specific standards.) To view your standards go to (new standards are toward the bottom of the page so scroll down):

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/science>

Timeline for Implementation:

Though new standards have been adopted for grades K-8, implementation in those grades is not immediate. See timeline below for when your grade level will implement new science standards. The timeline is available at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/arkansas-k-12-science-standards>.



Progress of 9th-12th Grade Standards:

A committee of educators from across the state started work this June to determine courses and standards for high school. It is their goal to have standards ready to submit to the State Board of Education for adoption this coming spring.

Testing:

This recent commissioner's memo shares the testing calendar for this upcoming school year:

<http://adesharepoint2.arkansas.gov/memos/Lists/Approved%20Memos/DispForm2.aspx?ID=1597&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fadesharepoint2%2Earkansas%2Egov%2Fmemos%2FLists%2FApproved%2520Memos%2FAllItems%2Easpx>

What does this mean for science? ACT Aspire will be administered to students in grades 3-10 instead of PARCC and Benchmark/EOC. ACT Aspire has a science section so students at grades 3-10 will take a science test. In eleventh grade, students will have the option of taking the ACT (paid for by the state.) For more information about ACT Aspire, go to <http://www.discoveractaspire.org>.