

Science Updates for the NW SLN

Spring SLN Meeting March 2015

ScienceNotebooks.Org [\[LINK\]](#)

- The website was originally created by the North Cascades and Olympic Science Partnership ([NCOSP](#)) – an NSF grant-funded math science partnership – in 2007 to support initial implementation of “science notebooking” as a practice used alongside adopted instructional materials.
- The server housed at the WWU physics department is dying, so [WA LASER](#) is taking over the website. They are revamping the site and narrowing the examples to show examples that align with NGSS 3-dimensions and CCSS.

Equity in Science Education Opportunities

- The NGSS vision of equity sees engagement of *all* students in the deepest practice and understandings of science education. Ellen Ebert has been thinking about how the gaps in opportunity emerge in subtle things like how we frame our conversations whilst teaching. How does that translate to classrooms or to other opportunities available to students?
- Ellen is reviewing National Youth Science applications and the writing is so faint compared to their passion. They have no identity in their school science... it’s all external to their classrooms. But how can students qualify with no AP classwork? How can we help them become competitive?

Assessment Update

- WA is currently part of *three* different assessment groups.
 - 1) GROUP 1: OSPI Science and OSPI Science assessment departments both represent WA in this group, which is lead by Stephen Pruitt (of Achieve Inc.).
 - This group is working on formative assessment. To help in this they are probably drawing on resources similar to the classroom based model classroom [assessment tasks](#) housed at the NGSS website.
 - 2) GROUP 2: CCSSO *collaborative* with 14 states + Virgin Islands.
 - This group is also in conjunction with Stephen Pruitt (who serves here in an advisory capacity). These folks are building item specifications and blueprints for new test. Cinda Parton and Dawn Cope represent WA.

- No materials have been released yet.
- 3) GROUP 3: WA has contracted with another company to continue to write the MSP's. Still needs to be decided if these will be based in 2009 WSSLS or the 2013 WSSLS/NGSS.
 - Cinda Parton, Dawn Copes, and Kara Todd of OSPI Assessment are working in tandem with the vendor to do this work for future assessments until the NGSS-based assessments of the future.
- Biology COE
 - Winter submission and scoring results posted.
 - Kids who didn't pass are probably working on subsequent submissions (submission window is April 20-29).
 - Scoring should happen around May 11 and takes about 4 weeks. Results are anticipated sometime around the 2nd week in June.
 - Can kids walk in graduation without having passed EOC or COE?
 - Whether kids who have not passed walk or not is a local decision.
 - If kids walk not knowing outcome but then pass, they will receive diploma.
 - Students waiting to resubmit or who are waiting on COE results should attempt the EOC.
 - Expected score release dates currently unknown. Scoring begins probably in end of June and scores may come in sometime end of July if they follow last year's time trajectory.
 - How is OSPI supporting students and teachers through COE?
 - OSPI has identified some schools with very high pass rates (about 80-85%) to find out what they are doing to help their students be successful. OSPI will likely publish either descriptions of programs or descriptions of supports.

CTE

- OSPI suspects that the Agriculture CTE classes that can currently offer Life Science credits may actually qualify for more than just Life Science. So OSPI is still reviewing these cross-credit classes for overlap.

Fellows

- Applications are out now. Due May 16th.
- The common work of the fellows is still to be uniformly defined across the state. But fellows themselves will also focus on building skills in working with adult learners.
- Districts ready to engage with fellows are probably at the stage of examining NGSS/WSSLS at a K-12 level.

District Coursemapping

- Many districts are looking into course-mapping (scope and sequence planning) using the NGSS Appendix K.
- Achieve Inc. has examples of accelerated course pathways to maximize some students' exposure to advanced science classes in HS. These are still in draft mode, but will hopefully be released soon to aid in the process.
- As a state, we are learning about this. Please consider contacting Ellen Ebert (OSPI Director of Science) or Brian MacNevin (NWESD Science Coordinator) to share your district's process if you find one to use.