



Indiana Content Standards for Educators

SCIENCE—PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical science teachers are expected to have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the knowledge and skills needed for this educator license, and to use that knowledge to help students prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century. This requires the ability to identify, comprehend, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the basic principles, fundamental concepts, and essential content defined in these standards, and to apply that knowledge to the tasks of planning and delivering effective instruction and assessment.

Table of Contents

Science–Physical Science Educator Standards.....	1
Selected Bibliography of Standards and Sources Related to Science–Physical Science	6
Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards.....	8

Science–Physical Science Educator Standards

Standard 1: The Nature and Processes of Science

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the nature of science and the processes of scientific inquiry.

Standard 2: Central Concepts and Connections in Science

Physical science teachers have a comprehensive understanding of the core ideas in other science disciplines and of the relationships between science, engineering, technology, and society.

Standard 3: Atomic Structure, the Properties of Matter, and Nuclear Processes

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of models of atomic structure, the periodic table, the properties of matter, and nuclear processes.

Standard 4: Chemical Bonding, Chemical Reactions, and Stoichiometry

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of chemical bonding, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry.

Standard 5: Energy Transformations, Energy Transfers, and Thermochemistry

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of energy transformations, energy transfers, and thermochemistry.

Standard 6: Motion and Forces

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of motion and forces.

Standard 7: Mechanical Waves

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the properties and propagation of mechanical waves.

Standard 8: Electromagnetic Energy, Electricity, and Magnetism

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of electromagnetism, electricity, and magnetism.

Standard 9: Energy and Society

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the production and use of energy and the effects of energy use on society and the environment.

Standard 10: Science Instruction and Assessment

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of content-specific instruction and assessment in science.

The Indiana Educator Standards for Science–Physical Science describe the knowledge and skills that teachers need to help students achieve the learning outcomes defined by the Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science. Links to relevant portions of the Indiana Academic Standards can be found below.

[Grade 5](#)

[Grade 6](#)

[Grade 7](#)

[Grade 8](#)

[Integrated Chemistry and Physics](#)

Science–Physical Science Educator Standards

Standard 1: The Nature and Processes of Science

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the nature of science and the processes of scientific inquiry, including:

- 1.1** the characteristics, assumptions, and goals of science
- 1.2** the tentative nature of scientific knowledge, which is subject to change as new evidence, new tools, or new ways of thinking become available
- 1.3** the formulation of testable hypotheses and the principles and procedures for designing and conducting scientific investigations
- 1.4** common tools, materials, and technology used in physical science investigations
- 1.5** the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and communication of scientific data, including the use of technology
- 1.6** the safe execution of laboratory exercises and safe storage and disposal of chemicals and materials
- 1.7** the role and applications of mathematics in science
- 1.8** the characteristics and uses of various sources of scientific information and the evaluation of scientific information, claims, and arguments
- 1.9** the role of peer review and critical evaluation of the results of scientific investigations, models, and explanations

Standard 2: Central Concepts and Connections in Science

Physical science teachers have a comprehensive understanding of the core ideas in other science disciplines and of the relationships between science, engineering, technology, and society, including:

- 2.1** the unifying concepts and processes that cut across the sciences and engineering
- 2.2** the basic concepts and major principles of life science
- 2.3** the basic concepts and major principles of Earth and space science
- 2.4** the basic characteristics, principles, and goals of the engineering, or technological, design process
- 2.5** the interconnections between the various disciplines of science
- 2.6** the interrelationships between science and technology
- 2.7** the social, cultural, and ethical aspects of science and technology
- 2.8** the historical development of important ideas in science from different periods and cultures

Science–Physical Science Educator Standards

Standard 3: Atomic Structure, the Properties of Matter, and Nuclear Processes

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of models of atomic structure, the periodic table, the properties of matter, and nuclear processes, including:

- 3.1** the characteristics and arrangement of subatomic particles and historical and contemporary models of the atom
- 3.2** the organization of the periodic table and periodic trends in the chemical and physical properties of matter
- 3.3** atomic orbitals and the electron configuration of atoms and ions
- 3.4** the properties of the different states of matter, kinetic molecular theory, and the gas laws
- 3.5** distinguishing characteristics of elements, compounds, and mixtures
- 3.6** nuclear processes and the characteristics and properties of nuclear materials

Standard 4: Chemical Bonding, Chemical Reactions, and Stoichiometry

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of chemical bonding, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry, including:

- 4.1** types and characteristics of chemical bonds and their effects on the properties of matter
- 4.2** principles of chemical bonding
- 4.3** types and characteristics of intermolecular forces and their effects on the properties of matter
- 4.4** types and characteristics of chemical reactions and factors that affect reaction rates and equilibrium
- 4.5** the principles of chemical kinetics and chemical equilibrium
- 4.6** the principles of stoichiometry, the law of conservation of mass, and their use in balancing chemical equations
- 4.7** the mole concept and its use in chemical calculations
- 4.8** principles and applications of electrochemistry and the different definitions of acids and bases and their characteristic properties

Standard 5: Energy Transformations, Energy Transfers, and Thermochemistry

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of energy transformations, energy transfers, and thermochemistry, including:

- 5.1** forms of energy and the transformation of energy from one form to another
- 5.2** the concepts of heat and temperature and the principles of calorimetry
- 5.3** principles and applications of the first and second laws of thermodynamics
- 5.4** the transfer of energy through convection, conduction, and radiation
- 5.5** energy changes associated with physical processes and chemical reactions
- 5.6** free energy and the spontaneity of chemical reactions

Standard 6: Motion and Forces

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of motion and forces, including:

- 6.1** Newton's laws of motion and universal gravitation and their application
- 6.2** the vector nature of force and motion and the concepts of displacement, velocity, and acceleration
- 6.3** graphical and mathematical representations of motion
- 6.4** characteristics of the gravitational force, frictional forces, elastic forces, and centripetal force and how they affect real-world systems
- 6.5** the conservation of mechanical energy in isolated systems and the principles of work, energy, and power
- 6.6** the characteristics and uses of simple machines

Standard 7: Mechanical Waves

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the properties and propagation of mechanical waves, including:

- 7.1** characteristics of energy transfer by mechanical waves in air, water, and Earth materials
- 7.2** the amplitude, wavelength, frequency, and period of mechanical waves
- 7.3** properties of sound waves and their propagation in different media
- 7.4** the refraction and reflection of mechanical waves
- 7.5** types of seismic waves and their properties

Standard 8: Electromagnetic Energy, Electricity, and Magnetism

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of electromagnetism, electricity, and magnetism, including:

- 8.1** the electromagnetic spectrum and the propagation of electromagnetic energy
- 8.2** the refraction, absorption, and reflection of electromagnetic waves
- 8.3** the nature of light and the properties and operation of lenses and mirrors
- 8.4** electrostatics, conservation of charge, and Coulomb's law
- 8.5** electricity, electric current, potential difference, resistance, and parallel and series circuits
- 8.6** principles and applications of electromagnetic induction
- 8.7** the properties of permanent magnets

Science–Physical Science Educator Standards

Standard 9: Energy and Society

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the production and use of energy and the effects of energy use on society and the environment, including:

- 9.1** the benefits and risks associated with the extraction, use, and management of non-renewable energy resources, such as coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium
- 9.2** the benefits and risks associated with the development of renewable forms of energy, such as wind energy, solar energy, geothermal energy, water power, and biofuels
- 9.3** the production and transmission of electric power from different types of power plants to homes and businesses
- 9.4** the use of energy in homes, different types of industries, and transportation and strategies for reducing energy use through technological innovation and conservation
- 9.5** the use of energy and natural resources in industrialized, developing, and underdeveloped nations and the role of energy resources in the development of an economically viable society

Standard 10: Science Instruction and Assessment

Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of content-specific instruction and assessment in science, including:

- 10.1** the Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science
- 10.2** the National Science Education Standards, the NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation, the Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects, and the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
- 10.3** instructional strategies and resources for promoting students' development of conceptual understanding, inquiry skills, and scientific habits of mind
- 10.4** strategies and skills for planning and designing science instruction, including the use of techniques and approaches that meet the needs of diverse learners
- 10.5** instructional strategies and communication methods that encourage active inquiry, supportive interaction, and collaboration in the science classroom
- 10.6** strategies and resources for promoting students' reading, writing, and mathematics skills in science
- 10.7** strategies and skills for selecting, adapting, and using technological resources to enhance teaching and learning in science
- 10.8** procedures, resources, and guidelines for maintaining a safe science learning environment
- 10.9** strategies and skills for effectively assessing student understanding and mastery of essential science concepts and skills

Selected Bibliography of Standards and Sources Related to Science–Physical Science

State and National Standards and Curriculum Frameworks

1. Indiana Department of Education. (2010). *Indiana academic standards for science*. http://www.indianascience.org/files/standards_03_29_10.pdf
2. Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)/National Governors Association (NGA). (2010). *Common core state standards for English language arts & literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects*. http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf
3. National Research Council. (1996). *National science education standards*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/4962>
4. National Science Teachers Association. (2003). *Standards for science teacher preparation*. <http://www.ncate.org/ProgramStandards/NSTA/NSTASTandards.doc>
5. American Association for the Advancement of Science. (1993). *Project 2061: Benchmarks for science literacy*. New York: Oxford University Press. <http://www.project2061.org/publications/bsl/default.htm>
6. International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). (2008). *National educational technology standards for teachers*. http://www.iste.org/Libraries/PDFs/NETS_for_Teachers_2008_EN.sflb.ashx
7. National Research Council. (2010). *A framework for science education: Preliminary public draft*.

Sources on Science–Physical Science Content

8. Tretter, T. R. (2000). Physical science lab essentials. *Science Teacher*, 67(7), 48–52.
9. American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Teachers Association. *Atlas of science literacy*. Volume 1 (2001) and Volume 2 (2007). Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science.
10. Ukens, L., Hein, W. W., Johnson, P. A., & Layman, J. W. (2004). Powerful ideas in physical science: A course model. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 33(7), 38–41.
11. Hanuscin, D. L., Akerson, V. L., & Phillipson-Mower, T. (2006). Integrating nature of science instruction into a physical science content course for preservice elementary teachers: NOS views of teaching assistants. *Science Education*, 90(5), 912–35.
12. Saderholm, J. C., & Tretter, T. R. (2008). Identification of the most critical content knowledge base for middle school science teachers. *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 19(3), 269–83.
13. Eick, C. J., Dias, M., & Smith, N. R. C. (2009). Middle school students' conceptual learning from the implementation of a new NSF supported curriculum: Interactions in physical science™. *School Science and Mathematics*, 109(1), 45–53.

Selected Bibliography of Standards and Sources Related to Science—Physical Science

Sources on Student Learning and Pedagogical Methodology

14. Committee on Science Learning, Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade, National Research Council. (2007). *Taking science to school: Learning and teaching science in grades K–8*. (R. A. Duschl, H. A. Schweingruber, & A. W. Shouse, Eds.). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
15. Committee on High School Science Laboratories: Role and Vision, National Research Council. (2006). *America's lab report: Investigations in high school science*. (S. R. Singer, M. L. Hilton, & H. A. Schweingruber, Eds.). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
16. Bransford, J. D., & Donovan, M. S. (2005). Scientific inquiry and how people learn. In M. S. Donovan & J. D. Bransford (Eds.), *How students learn: History, mathematics, and science in the classroom*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
17. Weiss, I. R., Knapp, M. S., Hollweg, K. S., & Burrill, G. (Eds.). (2001). *Investigating the influence of standards: A framework for research in mathematics, science, and technology education*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
18. Kaser, J. S., & Bourexis, P. S. (1999). *Enhancing program quality in science and mathematics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.
19. St. John, M., & Pratt, H. (1997). The factors that contribute to the 'best cases' of standards-based reform. *School Science and Mathematics, 97*(6), 316–24.
20. Adams, P. E., & Krockover, G. H. (1997). Beginning science teacher cognition and its origins in the preservice secondary science teacher program. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching, 34*(6), 633–53.
21. Valverde, G., & Schmidt, W. (1997). Refocusing U.S. math and science education. *Issues in Science and Technology, Winter 1997–1998*, 60–66.
22. Irving, K., Sanalan, V., & Shirley, M. (2009). Physical science connected classrooms: Case studies. *Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching, 28*(3), 247–75.
23. Schwartz, C. V., Rieser, B., Davis, E., Kenyon, L., Archer, A., Fortus, D., et al. (2009). Developing a learning progression for scientific modeling: Making scientific modeling accessible and meaningful for learners. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching, 46*(6), 632–654.

Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards

Indiana Educator Standards for Science— Physical Science	Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science	Indiana Core Standards for Science	National Science Education Standards	NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation	Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects	ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
<p><u>Standard 1: The Nature and Processes of Science</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the nature of science and the processes of scientific inquiry.</p>	<p>Gr. 5–8 Process Standards, ICP Nature of Science Standard</p>		<p>Gr. 5–8, CS – A; Gr. 5–8, CS – E; Gr. 5–8, CS – G; Gr. 9–12, CS – A; Gr. 9–12, CS – E; Gr. 9–12, CS – G;</p>	<p>Standard 2 – Nature of Science, Standard 3 – Inquiry, Standard 1 – B.4.33–34, Standard 1 – C.1.2–3 Standard 9 – Safety and Welfare</p>	<p>Reading Gr. 6–8, 1–10; Reading Gr. 9–10, 1–10; Reading Gr. 11–12, 1–10</p>	
<p><u>Standard 2: Central Concepts and Connections in Science</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a comprehensive understanding of the core ideas in other science disciplines and of the relationships between science, engineering, technology, and society.</p>	<p>Gr. 5–8 Process Standards, ICP Nature of Science Standard, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 5.3, 6.3, 7.3, 8.3, 5.4, 6.4, 7.4, 8.4</p>	<p>5.2, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 5.3, 6.3, 7.3, 8.3, 5.4, 6.4, 7.4, 8.4</p>	<p>Gr. 5–8, CS – E; Gr. 9–12, CS – E; Gr. 5–8, CS – F; Gr. 9–12, CS – F</p>	<p>Standard 4 – Issues, Standard 1 – B.4.29, 31</p>		

Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards

Indiana Educator Standards for Science— Physical Science	Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science	Indiana Core Standards for Science	National Science Education Standards	NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation	Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects	ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
<p><u>Standard 3: Atomic Structure, the Properties of Matter, and Nuclear Processes</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of models of atomic structure, the periodic table, the properties of matter, and nuclear processes.</p>	5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, ICP.3, .5, .7	5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, ICP.3, .5, .7	Gr. 5–8, CS – B; Gr. 9–12, CS – B	Standard 1 – B.2.15–16, 18; Standard 1 – C.3.a.1, 3; Standard 1 – C.5.a.5–7		
<p><u>Standard 4: Chemical Bonding, Chemical Reactions, and Stoichiometry</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of chemical bonding, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry.</p>	ICP.5	ICP.5	Gr. 9–12, CS – B	Standard 1 – B.2.13–14, 16; Standard 1 – C.3.a.2, 4–6, 8		

Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards

Indiana Educator Standards for Science— Physical Science	Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science	Indiana Core Standards for Science	National Science Education Standards	NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation	Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects	ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
<p><u>Standard 5: Energy Transformations, Energy Transfers, and Thermochemistry</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of energy transformations, energy transfers, and thermochemistry.</p>	6.1, 6.4, 7.1, ICP.4	6.1, 6.4, 7.1, ICP.4	Gr. 5–8, CS – B; Gr. 9–12, CS – B	Standard 1 – B.2.10–12, 14; Standard 1 – C.3.a.4		
<p><u>Standard 6: Motion and Forces</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of motion and forces.</p>	6.1, 7.1, ICP.1	6.1, 7.1, ICP.1	Gr. 5–8, CS – B; Gr. 9–12, CS – B	Standard 1 – B.2.11–12, 14; Standard 1 – C.5.a.1–4		
<p><u>Standard 7: Mechanical Waves</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the properties and propagation of mechanical waves.</p>	7.1, ICP.2	7.1, ICP.2	Gr. 9–12, CS – B	Standard 1 – B.2.10, Standard 1 – C.5.a.8		

Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards

Indiana Educator Standards for Science– Physical Science	Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science	Indiana Core Standards for Science	National Science Education Standards	NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation	Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects	ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
<p><u>Standard 8:</u> <u>Electromagnetic Energy, Electricity, and Magnetism</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of electromagnetism, electricity, and magnetism.</p>	6.1, 7.1, 7.4, ICP.4, ICP.6	6.1, 7.1, 7.4, ICP.4, ICP.6	Gr. 9–12, CS–B	Standard 1 – B.2.10, Standard 1 – C.5.a.8–9		
<p><u>Standard 9: Energy and Society</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the production and use of energy and the effects of energy use on society and the environment.</p>	6.4, 7.4, 8.4, ICP.8	6.4, 7.4, 8.4, ICP.8	Gr. 5–8, CS – F; Gr. 9–12, CS – F	Standard 1 – B.3.27–28, Standard 1 – C.5.a.11		

Alignment of Educator Standards with State and National Standards

Indiana Educator Standards for Science— Physical Science	Indiana Revised Academic Standards for Science	Indiana Core Standards for Science	National Science Education Standards	NCATE/ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation	Common Core State Standards for Literacy: Science and Technical Subjects	ISTE National Educational Technology Standards
<p><u>Standard 10: Science Instruction and Assessment</u></p> <p>Physical science teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of content-specific instruction and assessment in science.</p>			<p>Teaching Standards A – E, Assessment Standards A – E</p>	<p>Standard 5 – General Skills of Teaching, Standard 6 – Curriculum, Standard 8 – Assessment, Standard 9 – Safety and Welfare</p>	<p>Reading Gr. 6–8, 1–10; Reading Gr. 9–10, 1–10; Reading Gr. 11–12, 1–10; Writing Gr. 6–8, 1–10; Writing Gr. 9–10, 1–10; Writing Gr. 11–12, 1–10</p>	<p>1a–1d, 2a–2d, 3a–3d, 4a–4b</p>