

Review of Science Standards Final Draft by Victor Bloomfield

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I reviewed the final draft of the science standards in the pdf version. My overall reaction is that these are good, demanding standards: a student who successfully goes through this educational program will know a lot (facts are important in science); will have had experience in asking scientific questions, collecting and interpreting data; and will have an appreciation of the roles that science, engineering, and technology play in our modern world.

There are two points that I think need improvement:

1. Nowhere is the term “protein” mentioned. It is just as important to know that proteins are the products of genes that carry out the work of the cell - as enzymes, as ion channels, as molecular motors, as structural elements - as it is to know that DNA is the genetic material.
2. The concepts of evolution are appropriately presented, but the word “evolution” itself should be used earlier. notably in Grade 5 - IV. Life Sciences E. “Biological populations change over time.” Perhaps it would suffice to restate the standard as “The student will know that biological populations evolve over time.”

Sincerely,
Victor Bloomfield