

[National Earth Science Teachers Association: Earth Science Education Leadership and the Next Generation Science Standards](#) [1]



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Abstract:

The National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA) continues its 30-year-long efforts to advance geoscience education at all levels. NESTA uses multiple approaches to provide leadership, support, and resources to teachers so that all K – 12 students may receive a quality Earth and Space Science education.

NESTA reaches over 2500 teachers annually through multiple professional development opportunities at conferences held at the national, regional, and state levels annually. Our publications and websites, reaching millions of users annually, provide resources for classroom teachers, students and the public and keep our membership up to date on news and opportunities.

NESTA partners with other national geoscience and education organizations and programs, to advance geoscience education. The Next Generation Science Standards have opened up exciting new opportunities for ESIP members to share their data and tools at the K-12 level.

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**National Earth Science Teachers Association:
Earth Science Education Leadership and the Next Generation Science Standards**
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<h3>Summary</h3> <p>The National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA) continues its 30-year-long efforts to advance geoscience education at all levels. NESTA uses multiple approaches to provide leadership, support, and resources to teachers so that all K – 12 students may receive a quality Earth and Space Science education.</p> <p>NESTA reaches over 2500 teachers annually through multiple professional development opportunities at conferences held at the national, regional, and state levels annually. Our publications and websites provide resources for classroom teachers, students and the public and keep our membership up to date on news and opportunities.</p> <p>NESTA partners with other national geoscience and education organizations and programs, to advance geoscience education. The Next Generation Science Standards have opened up exciting new opportunities for ESIP members to share their data and tools at the K-12 level.</p>	 <h3>NESTA Background</h3> <p>The National Earth Science Teachers Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization, founded in 1983, whose purpose is the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of Earth Science (ES) education at all educational levels.</p> <h3>Our Organization</h3> <p>NESTA leadership is composed of accomplished Earth and space science and environmental science educators at the K-12 level. The leadership team includes a President, President-Elect, Past President, Treasurer and Secretary as well as Regional Directors (12 regions) and 5 Appointed Directors and the Executive Director.</p> <h3>NESTA Publications and Events</h3> <h4>Publications</h4> <p>NESTA publishes a quarterly journal, The Earth Scientist, which shares classroom activities and background science information with its members. NESTA publishes a monthly email newsletter, NESTA eNews, which keeps the membership up to date on NESTA activities and events. NESTA is the home to the Windows to the Universe website (windows.tumblr.com), one of the most popular Earth and space science education websites globally, with 14 million visits annually by educators and learners globally.</p> <h4>Professional Development</h4> <p>NESTA offers professional development through workshops, Share-a-Thon, lectures, short courses, web seminars, rock cafes, field experiences and social events. These opportunities build professionalism and community among K-12 educators, and offer members opportunities for leadership.</p>  	 <h3>National Earth Science Teachers Association</h3> <p>Serving the Earth Science educator community</p> <h3>Membership</h3> <p>NESTA's membership is composed almost entirely (~95%) by K-12 Earth and space science and environmental science educators in the US. The majority of the membership is teaching at the high school level, followed by middle school and elementary. NESTA's membership has grown from about 800 in 2006 to ~1200 today, thanks to our continuing effort to improve our services for educators nationally.</p> <h3>Partnerships</h3> <p>NESTA partners with national geoscience and education organizations and programs at the state, national, and international levels, as well as state-based ES teacher associations, professional societies, and industry to advance Earth and space science and environmental science education. For more information about forming a partnership with NESTA, contact Roberta Johnson, NESTA Executive Director.</p> <h3>The Next Generation Science Standards</h3> <p>The Next Generation Science Standards have recently been released. The standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increase emphasis on Earth and space science and environmental science in K-12• identify performance expectations in key subject areas relevant to ESIP, as well as scientific process and engineering practice skills. <p>The standards provide an opportunity for the ESIP community to engage in a new way in support of K-12 STEM education - providing access to data and analysis tools adapted for the middle and high school levels. Our session on July 11 from 8:30 – 10 am will share information about the standards, changes in the K-12 educational marketplace, and highlight opportunities for engagement.</p> 
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