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May 2023

Standards and Instructional Support Newsletter

Welcome the Standards and Instructional Support Office's monthly newsletter with topics focusing on the Colorado Academic Standards. [Visit the Office of Standards and Instructional Support homepage for the latest news and information.](#)

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General Announcements

Scholarships for wellness course for educators

The Crown Institute, with the support of the Hemera Foundation, is offering scholarships to educators to complete the Cultivating Compassion and Dignity in Ourselves and Our Schools certificate. This opportunity is open to school-based cohorts of three or more Colorado PK-12 educators, including teachers, administrators, mental health professionals, counselors and librarians. The Crown Institute especially encourages rural educators to apply. [Visit the Crown Institute website for additional information.](#)

Registration is open for the 2023 Teaching and Learning CoLabs

- **Thursday, June 1:** Grand Junction, hosted by Colorado Mesa University.
([Program](#) | [Registration](#))
- **Wednesday, June 14:** Greeley, hosted by the University of Northern Colorado.
([Program](#) | [Registration](#))
- **Friday, June 23:** Pueblo, hosted by CSU-Pueblo.
([Program](#) | [Registration](#))

The Teaching and Learning CoLabs are one-day, multi-disciplinary regional professional development sessions developed in partnership with Colorado's higher education institutions, professional teaching organizations and CDE. This year's content areas are expanding to include ELA, math, health, PE, science, computer science, social studies, visual and performing arts and school leadership. Schools are encouraged to attend a CoLab in teams with teachers representing multiple grades and content areas.

Standards Review and Revision

Standards revision

The Colorado Academic Standards for computer science, English language proficiency, physical education and world languages are undergoing a benchmarking process conducted by independent third-party reviewers. The State Board of Education will review the benchmarking reports at its August meeting and decide if minor revisions, major revisions or no revisions are needed for each content area. Each content area will be considered separately.

Youth Involvement in standards

With the passage of Senate Bill 23-008, Youth Involvement Educational Standards Review, CDE will solicit nominations for youth representatives to the state standards revision process in August 2023.

Jump to Content Area Specific Information

- [Computer Science](#)
- [Science Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

[Four Corners Computer Science Convening: “Connecting CS with culture and language” July 9-11](#)

This computer science conference is for K-12 educators and administrators who work directly with Native American students and will take place July 9 through 11, at Fort Lewis College in Durango. Due to funding from Google and support from CSTA, registration, transportation, lodging and meals are covered for those who qualify. [The registration deadline is Thursday, June 1.](#)

Science Professional Learning Opportunities

[The Tipping Point](#)

When: Tuesday, June 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

About: Presented by the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. Join developer Jon Griffith and featured scientist, ecologist Dr. Megan DeMarche as they lead educators through "The Tipping Point", a two-day middle and high school level activity for students to analyze ecological data and explain how rising temperatures are affecting a tundra ecosystem.

[Megafires: Rare Occurrences or the New Normal?](#)

When: Tuesday, July 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

About: Presented by the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. Join developer Jon Griffith and featured scientist, fire ecologist Dr. Natasha Stavros, for a webinar as they lead educators through "*Megafires: Rare Occurrences or the New Normal?*", a three-day activity for students to analyze megafire frequency data and explain how and why the number of megafires has changed over time.

[Water and Rivers Teacher Institute](#)

When: Various Dates and trainings available

About: Presented by various organizations including Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and Colorado Western University. Learn how to integrate rivers and the complexities of water management in the West into curriculum. Earn two graduate credits upon completion.

[Arctic Ecosystem Exploration: MOSAiC Teacher Workshop](#)

When: Wednesday, July 12, and Thursday, July 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

About: Presented by MOSAiC. Explore the impact of declining sea ice on the Arctic food web in this virtual workshop. Gain valuable insights from MOSAiC scientists and curriculum developers to effectively facilitate lessons. Participants will earn a certificate for 10 hours of professional development. Graduate credit from the University of Colorado Boulder is also available for a \$90 purchase.

When: various Dates and trainings offered through June 2023

About: Resilient Colorado offers a place-based, Next Generation Science Standards-aligned science curriculum for secondary teachers in earth and environmental science, civics and social studies. The curriculum focuses on natural hazards such as wildfires, floods and droughts, using local case studies and datasets. The curriculum aims to increase students' understanding of natural hazards and community preparedness to improve resilience in rural Colorado classrooms. The grant covers registration and offers a stipend for teachers to implement the curriculum and host a community resilience expo. Participants can expect to explore local issues and learn from educators across the state.

[The Future of Forests](#)

When: Virtual Workshop Wednesday, June 7, to Thursday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

About: Presented by Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. Join the free two-day teacher workshop on "The Future of Forests" focused on post-fire recovery in the west. Led by University of Colorado Boulder curriculum developers, this virtual workshop connects to NGSS life science standards and incorporates NASA's GLOBE Observer land cover app. The workshop is open to middle and high school science teachers, and will be conducted via Zoom. Participants will receive a certificate for 10 hours of professional development. A graduate credit option is available for purchase for \$90.

[Summer Agriculture Institute](#)

When: Monday, July 10, through Friday, July 14, in Durango, and Tuesday, July 18, through Thursday, July 20, in Denver

About: Presented by Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom. Attendees will learn about Colorado agriculture and innovative, standards-based ways to incorporate food, fiber, fuel and natural resource topics into classroom curriculum. Free resources and renewal and grad credits will be offered. PreK-12 formal and informal educators in all disciplines from across the Four Corners region and beyond are welcome.

[Environmental Educators Workshop](#)

When: Virtual workshop takes place on Aug. 1 to 3

About: Presented by Earth Force, this deep dive into practical, actionable strategies focuses on how to build youth-adult partnerships, integrate civic experiences, facilitate student-led projects, connect students to environmental stakeholders and more.

[Demystifying STEM: An Introduction to fun and practical approaches to STEM](#)

In person workshop: Wednesday, June 14, through Friday, June 16

About: Presented by Denver Museum of Nature and Science in collaboration with the University of Colorado Boulder's TeachEngineering

can go hand-in-hand with teaching literacy, and how inquiry-based lessons can help students develop 21st century skills.



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