



Founded in 1944, the Arlington, Virginia–based National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is the largest organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA membership—approximately 60,000 strong, and representing more than 100 countries—includes science teachers; science supervisors; informal science educators; administrators; scientists; and leaders in business, industry, and government. Along with its members, NSTA’s 58 state chapters, 33 associate groups, 9 affiliates, and nearly 150 student chapters work together to further promote and support quality science education.

As the leader in science education, NSTA works to engage teachers of science nationwide and improve student learning by providing a vast array of products, services, and programs. Each year NSTA hosts a national conference and three area conferences that attract nearly 20,000 science educators from around the world. These conferences are open to members and nonmembers and offer the latest in science content, teaching strategy, and research. Other important additions to the national conference agenda (and selected area conferences) include Research Dissemination Conferences (RDCs), Professional Development Institutes (PDIs), and NSTA Symposia. These special events, led by experts in the field, cover critical science education topics in depth and promote research-based strategies and documented approaches to improving science education.

In addition to the conferences, NSTA offers a variety of focused, face-to-face professional development programs for science educators. NSTA Institutes, the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy, the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy, the United Technologies Corporation/ NSTA STEM Externship, and the Urban Science Education Leadership Academy are uniquely tailored to address the individual professional development needs of teachers and school leaders with research-based learning opportunities that improve content knowledge and provide pedagogical support for K–12 science teachers.

NSTA’s impressive collection of digital tools and online resources address the needs of the busy science teacher in search of on demand professional development. Through the nationally recognized NSTA Learning Center, educators can explore content and its pedagogical implications and certify their mastery of a specific subject area—all from the comfort of home.

Our award-winning publishing division, NSTA Press[®], develops and produces more than 20 books a year on topics including astronomy, biology, chemistry, and environmental science. Specifically aimed at teachers of science, NSTA Press titles offer a unique blend of accurate scientific content and sound teaching strategies. NSTA also publishes four monthly, award-winning journals: *Science and Children* (K–5), *Science Scope* (6–8), *The Science Teacher* (grades 9–12), and the *Journal of College Science Teaching*. The journals include helpful columns and other original content and provide more than 100,000 teachers with proven classroom instructional techniques. NSTA also distributes a popular newspaper, *NSTA Reports*, and four e-newsletters—*NSTA Express*, *NSTA’s Book Beat*, *Science Class*, *Scientific Principals* and *The Leaders Letter*—that nearly 430,000 subscribers. NSTA’s content-rich website provides grade-specific resources for teachers and the latest news and information on science teaching and learning.

NSTA hosts and administers several large-scale, nationally-known competitions and grant programs for science educators and students. Competitions include Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision, America’s Home Energy Education Challenge, the Clean Tech Competition, Disney’s Planet Challenge, The DuPont Challenge Science Education Competition, Mars Education Challenge, The Shell Science Lab Challenge, and Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge.

As the national voice of and for science education, NSTA works hard to keep its membership, the broader community of science teachers, government leaders, and the general public informed about key science education issues. NSTA pursues its mission on Capitol Hill by communicating policy recommendations to government leaders. Representatives from NSTA, the National Research Council (NRC), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Achieve, Inc. are collaborating on the development of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

In 2009, NSTA also launched Science Matters a major public awareness and engagement campaign designed to rekindle a national sense of urgency and action among schools and families about the importance of science education and science literacy. New partnerships in 2009 also created great new resources for NSTA members, including the NSTA-Intel Design & Education Application Studio (IDEA Studio). The IDEA Studio is a collaborative launch platform where the nexus of leading-edge science education research, electronically-empowered professional development, and technology-enabled innovation take flight. The IDEA Studio will explore new and innovative approaches for technology-driven science education applications.