Results of the 2015 Science Survey

Education – Core Content Areas – Accountability Program

The following is a summary of the surveys of local school systems that were conducted pursuant to House Bill 1227: Education-Core Content Areas-Accountability Program. The information was gathered in the fall of 2015. The 2015 administration of the science survey contained edited questions to better reflect and inform the legislatively mandated areas of focus regarding the progress being made on the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) within the Local Education Agencies (LEAs): instructional time for science, availability and use of appropriate instructional materials aligned to the NGSS, instructional technology, and teacher certification.

The number of respondents to the surveys:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Band</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Supervisors</th>
<th>Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>1536</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Levels</td>
<td>2967</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary:

The 2015 survey indicates differences among the NGSS aligned materials, professional development, and instructional time available at each grade band. Instructional time for science at the elementary level is dramatically lower and less consistent than instructional time in the middle school level and high school level. The data indicates that science professional development specifically aligned to the NGSS is in high demand across all grade bands. Middle School science teachers teaching out of their area of certification are more prevalent in many districts. However, this does remain a concern in several LEAs at the High School level also.

Summary

Grade Level Taught

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>1536</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many hours of instructional time are spent in the elementary science classroom per week?

- Less than one hour: 191 (6.5%)
- 1-3 hours: 1011 (34.5%)
- 4-6 hours: 508 (17.3%)
- 7-9 hours: 76 (2.6%)
- Not Applicable: 1148 (39.1%)

Do your students also have experiences with content aligned to the NGSS in a laboratory environment as part of their regular science class?

- Yes: 1525 (52.1%)
- No: 1403 (47.9%)

Do your students also have experiences with content aligned to the NGSS in a laboratory environment in addition to their regular science class?

- Yes: 799 (27.4%)
- No: 2116 (72.6%)
Are appropriate resources aligned to the NGSS available for science instruction in classrooms?

Yes 1777 61.4%
No 1119 38.6%

Are appropriate resources aligned to the NGSS utilized for instruction in science classrooms?

Yes 1892 65.2%
No 1009 34.8%

Is technology available for use in science instruction in classrooms?

Yes 2426 82.7%
No 506 17.3%
Is available technology used for science instruction in classrooms?

- Yes: 2445 (83.4%)
- No: 487 (16.6%)

Is appropriate professional development aligned to the NGSS available to you?

- Yes: 1711 (58.4%)
- No: 1219 (41.6%)