



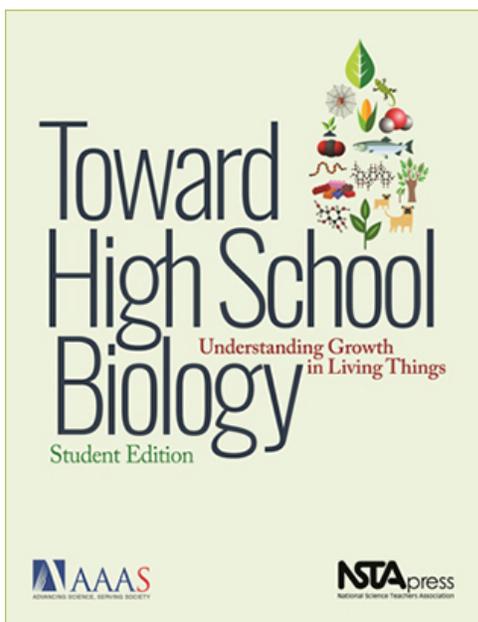
PROJECT  
2061  
CONNECTIONS

September 2017

Dear Colleague,

**Project 2061 Connections** is an electronic newsletter for the science education community. Each issue rounds up the latest news on Project 2061's current research; what we are learning; and how our findings, tools, and resources can be applied to other efforts to advance science literacy.

**Articles include:**



**I. Project 2061 Curriculum Takes Holistic Approach to Middle School Science**

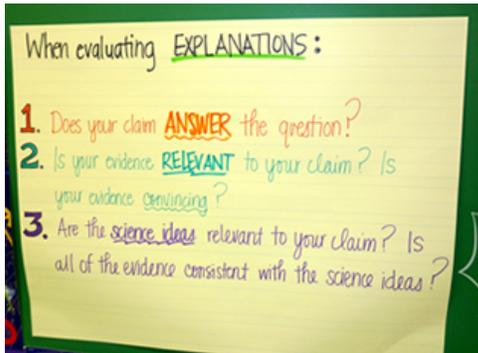
As summer draws to a close, participating middle school students will begin tackling chemistry concepts to prepare them for the rigor of high school biology courses. [Read more.](#)

**II. Energy Assessments in the Spotlight**

Given the central role that energy plays in every aspect of modern life, finding out what students know about energy concepts is critical. Researchers



at Project 2061 have been responding to that need by creating new knowledge and resources that can serve the science education community. [Read more.](#)



### III. Helping Teachers Understand and Use New Science Standards

What can curriculum materials, which are used in nearly every classroom, do to help teachers meet the challenges posed by Next Generation Science Standards? Findings from a Project 2061 study provide some answers. [Read more.](#)



### IV. Join Project 2061 at NSTA Baltimore Conference Sessions

A short course, workshop, and presentation will be offered at NSTA's October 2017 Area Conference in Baltimore to introduce teachers in the mid-Atlantic area to Project 2061's curriculum and assessment resources. [Read more.](#)

### V. This Just In...

- Project 2061's *Toward High School Biology* unit will be published in mid-September by NSTA Press. Order it from the [NSTA Science Store](#).
- Two recent presentations by Project 2061's director Jo Ellen Roseman focused on the *Toward High School Biology* unit and the design strategies used to align it with the three-dimensional learning goals of *Next Generation Science Standards*:
  - "Using Physical and Life Science Ideas to Make Sense of Phenomena" was part of a webinar hosted by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, May 11, 2017. Access the [webinar archive](#) and the [presentation slides](#).
  - "What Do Materials Designed for the *Framework* and NGSS Look Like and How Can They Be Designed?" was presented at a workshop hosted by the National Research Council's Board on Science Education, June 27-28 in Washington, DC. Access the [presentation slides](#).
- Two reports issued this summer highlight the growing need for curriculum materials that support teachers in helping their students achieve the learning goals in *Next Generation Science Standards*. Project 2061's director Jo Ellen Roseman participated in a

workshop convened by the Carnegie Corporation of New York that resulted in a [report](#) that considers the state of curriculum materials in the era of NGSS. The curriculum research organization BSCS also issued a set of guidelines aimed at helping educators identify criteria and strategies for evaluating the alignment of instructional materials to NGSS. Project 2061's deputy director George DeBoer served as an advisor to BSCS, and Project 2061's curriculum evaluation efforts are prominently featured in the [report](#).

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