

SCIENCE

Bering Strait School District adheres to the Alaska Science Standards adopted in 2006. Teaching candidates should note that while Alaska has not adopted the Common Core Standards, the standards for Literacy in Science were adopted in 2012 and begin in grade 6; standards for K-5 literacy in Science are integrated into the K-5 standards for Reading and Writing. However, Alaska has Performance Standards/Grade Level Expectations (PSGLES) for Science in Grades 3-11. The PSGLES indicate core content to be mastered by the end of a given grade.

The standards for science stress scientific literacy as well as conceptual understanding. Students are expected to ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, and use mathematics and computational thinking. Forward-thinking candidates should be aware of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) currently being reviewed at the State level. Science content can be added and enriched as appropriate. All grades have the opportunity to participate in a site Science Fair, with grades 7-12 eligible to compete at the District and State level of competition.

- Primary Students (ECE-2) focus on a discovery-based model of scientific inquiry as well as basic concepts of Physical, Life, and Earth Science.
- Elementary Students (3-5) focus on developing an understanding of the processes of science and more detailed study of Physical, Life, and Earth Science and the history and nature of science.
- Middle School Students (6-8) focus on designing replicable investigations and recording and analyzing data as well as increasingly more complex concepts in Physical, Life, and Earth Science, the dynamic relationship between science and technology, and cultural and social perspectives of science.
- High School Students (9-12) focus on using models to explore, demonstrate and explain theories and processes in Physical, Life, and Earth Science, as well as researching and testing multiple solutions to a problem. Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science may also be offered at some sites.

Bering Strait School District adopted HSP Science texts for grades 1-5, which have multiple opportunities for experimentation; for grades 6-8, instruction is through McGraw-Hill iScience in a rotation of Life, Earth and Physical Science; for High School, a rotation of Prentice Hall texts covering Life, Earth and Physical Science. For more advance class, Glencoe Chemistry, Physics and McGraw-Hill Environmental Science have been adopted.

Bering Strait School District is dedicated to providing opportunities for professional development. Opportunities are provided by VTC, through POD trainings, district in-services in August and October, and through site visits by the district science facilitator to provide training and additional support. BSSD participates in many state and national initiatives, such as REACH and REACH-UP, and develops and maintains partnerships with numerous local, state, and national scientific organizations.