Glossary of NGSS Workbook Terms

Aspiration — A powerful tool that signifies a shared understanding of what success looks like. It must be clear, measurable and understandable to everyone. In the case of the NGSS, the aspiration will describe the impact your state expects the new content standards and related assessments to have on student learning. *See Chapter 2.*

Assessment Framework — The assessment framework is a qualitative rubric that asks several rigorous questions about the stages of implementation to determine the likelihood of success of a given component. The qualitative judgments are combined with the data that are available to render an overall judgment. The framework can be applied at any level — to a particular goal or to a strategy within that goal. *See Chapter 7.*

Element — The workbook is organized around seven elements of NGSS adoption and implementation planning: designating a strategic leadership team and reviewing your capacity for adoption and implementation of the NGSS; defining your aspiration for what the NGSS will accomplish in your state; evaluating past and present performance in science education in your state; determining the state's role and approach to implementation of the NGSS; setting targets and trajectories for future student achievement in science; developing a stakeholder engagement strategy for maintaining consistent support for NGSS implementation; and establishing routines for monitoring progress and solving problems. *See Introduction.*

Guiding Coalition — A small group of highly visible and credible leaders who share your aspiration and will sustain your effort to adopt and implement the NGSS in the face of pushback and other challenges. The role of the guiding coalition is to help remove barriers to change, exert influence at key moments to support adoption and implementation, and provide counsel to the strategic leadership team that is responsible for developing the state's strategy. The guiding coalition ought to consist of a subset of influential stakeholders whose collective efforts have the potential to make a significant difference in reaching your aspiration. Guiding coalitions are typically comprised of seven to 10 key external members. *See Chapter 6.*

Key Three Messages — You should be able to boil down what you want to communicate to three central messages — the "key three." Typically, the first message will define the issue, the second will outline the problem and the third will explain the solution. The key three are most effective if they are developed and owned by a large group of stakeholders; used by all relevant leaders and advocates; and communicated consistently, without variation, at all times. *See Chapter 6.*

Metric — A metric is the quantitative measure you will use to determine progress on your goal. *See Chapter 3.*

Strategic Leadership Team — A team tasked with creating an overall vision for the NGSS and the timeline, phase-in strategy and work plan for both adoption and implementation. The strategic leadership team should include representatives who are knowledgeable about your state's current science standards, have the capacity to consider and make recommendations about each of the elements that should be in the adoption and implementation plan, and ultimately can execute and oversee such a plan. *See Chapter 1.*

Strategy — A coordinated set of activities that are designed to help you achieve one or more of your goals in science education. A strategy should have a beginning and an end, and it should be designed to change something about the way your state does business in science education. Some strategies involve creating something new, while others involve changing or scaling up an existing practice. *See Chapter 4.*

Target — A target is the specific level of your metric that your state intends to reach by a given point in time. The target should be based on past performance and other evidence of what is possible. *See Chapter 5.*

Trajectory — A trajectory is a projection of a metric's path over time from its current level to the level suggested by the target. It is your best estimate of the how your system will perform at each point in time en route to achieving its overall target. *See Chapter 5.*