Expanding the Call for Lessons and Units Designed for the NGSS

EQuIP Peer Review Panel: Science

Earlier this year, Achieve launched the EQuIP Peer Review Panel (PRP) for Science—a group of expert educators who evaluate the quality and alignment of lessons and units to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Lessons and units are currently under review and high quality lessons will soon be posted online at www.nextgenscience.org/PRP.

Given our work in the field, we know that educators and leaders are anxious to see examples of high quality lessons and units to support their transition to new standards. To that end, Achieve is expanding its call for lessons and units with the goal of providing more quality materials to educators as quickly as possible. As such, the second call for lessons and units expands the categories of lessons and units that will be shared, announces a new digital badge that will follow the best materials, wherever they are posted online, and opens the review process to developers with intellectual property constraints.

How is the 2nd Call for NGSS Lessons and Units Different?

1. We Added a New Category—"*Quality Works in Progress*"

Early reviews by the PRP surfaced lessons and units that addressed some criteria of the EQuIP Rubric for Science very well, but did not rate high enough to be shared as *Examples of High Quality NGSS Design* or *Examples of High Quality NGSS Design if Improved.* To not let the "perfect be the enemy of the good," we are adding a category to our online library called: *Quality Works in Progress*. This category does not represent a rating on the scoring rubric for the EQuIP Rubric for Science, but will include lessons and units identified by reviewers to have strongly addressed *at least one* of the EQuIP criteria.

When these lessons and units are shared, the accompanying feedback reviews will highlight what is done well along with feedback about what needs improvement. Those that developed the materials will have the option to share their lesson and/or unit as a *Quality Work in Progress* on line or revise it and resubmit it to the panel in the hopes of earning a higher rating, or both. We strongly encourage developers to consider sharing now, revising, and re-submitting to the panel in the future.

2. We Created a New Digital Badge

To support the visibility of high-quality materials designed for the NGSS, lessons and units identified by the Peer Review Panel as *Examples of High-quality of NGSS Design* will not only be shared at www.nextgenscience.org/PRP, but will also be given a digital badge which can be displayed on the website of the individual, group, school, district or organization that developed the lesson or unit. Developers who receive the digital excellence badge agree not to extend the claim of NGSS design beyond the specific lesson or unit *as it was reviewed* and they must agree to post the EQuIP feedback along with the reviewed materials. We hope this change will encourage multiple postings of good lessons and units, and their associated EQuIP feedback, and provide an easier way for educators to be assured that a lesson or unit is high quality.

3. We Added a New Submission Pathway for Developers with Intellectual Property Constraints

For developers of lessons and units who are restricted from submitting lessons or units under one of the Creative Commons licenses, there is now a way to have materials reviewed and recognized by the Peer Review Panel for Science. Instead of being hosted on the PRP website under a Creative Commons license,

these materials can earn the digital badge that can be posted alongside the materials on the developer's website. To earn the digital badge, developers will agree to make the materials public and freely available, to not extend the claim of NGSS design beyond the specific lesson or unit *as it was reviewed,* and to post the Peer Review Panel's EQuIP feedback along with the reviewed materials.

Why is the Peer Review Panel Important?

The intent of the EQuIP Peer Review Panel (PRP) for Science is to provide concrete examples of high quality lessons and units that, along with professional learning, can support implementation of the NGSS. The PRP seeks to identify lessons and units that best illustrate the cognitive demands of the NGSS as introduced in *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*. This helps K-12 science education in the U.S. in several ways:

- It helps teachers, schools, and districts understand more about what the NGSS looks like in practice.
- It helps authors and curriculum developers understand the targets they are seeking as they produce materials.
- It helps articulate the collective knowledge and insight of the field about what constitutes being designed for the NGSS.
- It provides a robust learning activity for those involved and those who read and review the products of this work.

It should be noted that the criterion-based reviews provided by the peer review panel are meant to be constructive and in the spirit of continuous improvement. All submissions receive feedback regardless of their rating and confidentiality will be ensured for those that are not ready to be shared publicly.

It's important to note that the PRP does not endorse any particular curriculum, product, or template.

The Fine Print

All materials that are submitted for review must adhere to the following:

1. Texts intended to be used with the submitted materials should include proper citation.
2. Submissions may include elements from other openly licensed resources in the public domain (e.g. texts, student activities, etc.), but the unit submitted must be an original work.
3. Materials should contain accurate content, and be free of bias or advertising.

Creative Commons Submissions

In addition to the requirements for all submissions, those that submit under the Creative Commons pathway agree to the following:

1. If the lesson or unit is identified as an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design* or an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design if Improved*, the developers agree that it will be licensed using one of the following four licenses:
    - The Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
    - The Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
    - The Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License
    - The Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License

2. If the lesson or unit is identified as an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design* or an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design if Improved,* the developers agree that the EQuIP Rubric for Science feedback generated by the PRP reviewers will be posted online together with the lesson or unit.
3. If materials are identified as *Quality Works in Progress*—reviewers determine that the materials are a high-quality example of at least one of the criteria in the EQuIP Rubric for Science—developers will have the option of reviewing the feedback and indicating if they are willing to share their materials under the *Quality Works in Progress* designation or further revising the lesson or unit and resubmitting. Developers will be encouraged to share with this designation rather than wait until the lesson is "perfect." They will be invited to resubmit with revisions and/or another user could make revisions and resubmit to the panel (since these are creative commons licensed).

Non-Creative Commons Submissions

In addition to the requirements for all submissions, those that submit under the Non-Creative Commons pathway agree to the following:

1. If the lesson or unit is identified as *Example of High Quality NGSS Design,* developers wishing to claim the digital badge must agree to the following:
    a. to post the reviewed materials online in a way that is public and freely available;
    b. to post the EQuIP Rubric for Science feedback generated by the PRP reviewers alongside the lesson or unit;
    c. to use language where the materials are posted that indicates that the rating is only for the lesson or unit that was reviewed and does not extend to other materials.
    d. To share the URL where the materials are posted with Achieve.
    e. That the URL may be posted on Achieve's website in a list of materials that have received the digital badge.

Who can submit lessons or units for review?

The EQuIP Peer Review Panel for Science will consider materials submitted by educators, districts, states, informal science organizations, nonprofits, and commercial developers provided the materials can be posted freely online—either on Achieve's site under a Creative Commons license, or on another website hosted by the person or organization submitting the materials.

How can materials be submitted for review?

The submitting individual or organization must complete this submission form: (https://goo.gl/forms/PKBwqM37Heo0ERrX2**).**

- The submission form will collect necessary information about the submitting individual or organization and the material being submitted.
- After completing the form, the submitter must send all submission materials or link to a hosted server to Jeremy Thomas at Jthomas@achieve.org in the form of a Zip folder.
- Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis and evaluated on a first come, first serve basis.
- For individuals or organizations that have a large volume of lessons and units that they would like to be evaluated, please only submit two or three lessons units to start. If you would like to submit more at a time, please contact Jeremy Thomas at the e-mail above.

What happens with the materials after they are submitted?

1. Achieve will assign the lesson or unit to at least three EQuIP peer reviewers for review using the following guidelines:

- Peer reviewers review material in their grade band and content area of expertise.
- Peer reviewers do not participate in review of material on which they might have a conflict of interest.
- The three peer reviewers for each lesson or unit conduct a review individually before synthesizing their reviews into a consensus report.
- Achieve staff facilitate the review process as needed to ensure a consensus rating, while making sure that the review reflects the perspective of the reviewers.

2. Achieve will notify the submitting individual or organization of the final rating.

- Achieve will return the lesson or unit to the submitting organization along with the feedback from the EQuIP Peer Review Panel.
- For lessons/units that do not earn the rating necessary for posting, Achieve will keep the fact that materials were submitted and the feedback provided confidential. Criterion-based feedback is intended to be constructive and in the spirit of continuous improvement. Resubmission is encouraged!
- Developers will have the opportunity to revise the instructional materials based on the feedback from the EQuIP Peer Review Panel.
- The materials can be resubmitted to the EQuIP Peer Review Panel for a second review once the feedback has been incorporated. Revisions will need to clearly explain how the new version addresses the concerns of the original review to be considered again.

3. Achieve will post Creative Commons submission lessons or units that are identified as an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design*, an *Example of High Quality NGSS Design if Improved* or *Quality Work in Progress,* along with feedback from the EQuIP Peer Review Panel, on our website at: www.nextgenscience.org/PRP. **Materials that have earned and accepted the digital badge as a non-creative commons submission will also be posted on our website.**

4. Developers that earn a quality rating can also post a digital badge wherever they have posted their materials online, if they agree to post it in accordance with the badge guidelines.

Who reviews the submitted science lessons and units?

The EQuIP Peer Review Panel for Science is made up of over 35 educators and experts from across the country representing every grade band with more than 400 years of combined teaching experience. These reviewers were identified following a rigorous blind selection process that verified a deep understanding of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the NGSS and the applicant's ability to apply the EQuIP Rubric for Science. Applicants were selected based on their ability to make consistent, criterion-based evaluations using the latest version of the EQuIP Rubric for Science. Reviewers will be recused from reviewing submissions that a) they developed in part or in whole, b) they have a financial or personal tie to, or c) directly compete for market share with materials they have a financial or personal tie to.

Who can I contact for more information?

For additional questions about the process of submitting instructional materials for review by the EQuIP Peer Review Panel for Science, please email Jeremy Thomas at jthomas@achieve.org.