

Districts report a disconnect between the timeline for NGSS and capacity to implement. They're constrained by a complexity of factors including inadequate instructional resources, and lack of bandwidth in the midst of ongoing math and ELA challenges.

For more of *The Center's CA Insights* on SPOTLIGHT ON NGSS, visit us at Thecenter.wested.org/spotlight.

Over the course of this year's research cycle, we've unpacked the landscape of California State Standards implementation by examining key drivers of implementation such as Funding, Professional Learning, and Instructional Shifts. Now, we look across those domains to explore how districts are approaching implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. As we learn in this domain, NGSS implementation on the whole is still proceeding slowly, as district capacity lags behind the state's planned timeline.

NGSS IN CALIFORNIA: THE INTERCONNECTED ARRAY OF DOMAINS DRIVING IMPLEMENTATION

*Source: 2017 District Leader Interviews



Instructional Shifts

District leaders do not express great confidence in their teachers' mastery of the NGSS, with **75%** saying their teachers have not yet acquired the skills to differentiate science instruction for diverse learners*



"Teachers have so little time to spend on doing their own research that, I really want to be able to provide them the core materials and any additional supplemental so they don't have to go out, finding all their materials."



– District Leader on Instructional Materials

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: DISTRICT LEADERS ON NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION



"Right now, we have focused on ELA and math, so I would say it's [funding toward NGSS] not comparable right now. **Down the road, it is going to depend on how much [funding] we get. Once we know, then we can try to figure that out.**"

– District Leader on Funding



"It is hard to find good, deeply rooted, science people. That is an issue that we all have. **I don't want teachers to see NGSS as an add-on.**"

– District Leader on Professional Learning



"NGSS is a big shift... I think [it's] taking [us] to **new heights in the re-engineering of science education.** Because of that and because of that foundational work that began long ago, **we've been previewing that for the last several years.** We've used that preview to do things like, so far, adopt a new course design at the middle ranks."

– District Leader on Instructional Shifts



"I don't feel like I can do more than [what we're doing] right now. It isn't because of funding; it's because I feel like **[the teachers are] not yet where we need them to be with ELA and math for me to add NGSS to the juggling.**"

– District Leader on Implementation Approach & Vision