



# CSTA POSITION STATEMENT ON SCIENCE STANDARDS

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The California Science Teachers Association (CSTA), a statewide organization representing K-16 science educators, believes that science is an extension of everyone's natural curiosity and permeates our lives. Further, we believe that science has a profound influence on human history and has significant implications for the future. As such, CSTA is deeply interested in the work of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards.

The California Science Teachers Association commends and endorses the following criteria for standards which have been adopted by the Commission:

- ❖ Standards should define measurable academic content knowledge and skills.
- ❖ Standards should be high for all students and reflect academically rigorous content and performance necessary for California's pupils to be comparable to the best in the world.
- ❖ Standards should be useful, developing what is needed for employment, citizenship, and lifelong learning.
- ❖ Standards should specify a common academic core for all students at every grade level.
- ❖ Standards should be clearly written, and understandable by teachers, parents, students, and the general public.
- ❖ Standards should be specific and focused on what is most essential for what students are to learn and manageable for schools given the constraints of time.
- ❖ Standards must be linked to multiple performance levels with the clear goal that all students will meet high standards.
- ❖ Standards should include assessment items and examples of student work to illustrate performance levels—"how good is good enough."

CSTA supports the Commission's attention in the development of standards so that students not only know the content of science, but understand it. This is stated in the Commission's third criterion which calls for standards that emphasize content knowledge leading to gainful employment, further education, and good citizenship. In addition, CSTA supports standards which actively involve all students in learning the content of science.

*Adopted March 7, 1998, CSTA Board of Directors*