

NSTA's Position Papers—Advocating for Science Education

Most NSTA members are familiar with the many benefits of membership: NSTA journals, *NSTA Reports*, NSTA Press publications, conventions, and other opportunities. But, NSTA also acts as an advocate and voice for science education, and members of the community often want to know the Association's official position on issues in education.

To that end, NSTA has written a series of research-based position statements that outline the organization's stand on critical issues in science education, such as the use of animals in the classroom, national standards, and the teaching of evolution. These position statements are available on the NSTA website at www.nsta.org/position.

The lead paper, *Beyond 2000—Teachers of Science Speak Out*, is an umbrella paper that addresses the key elements of science education: how students learn, what students are to learn, the nature of scientific knowledge, the role of assessment, the need for ongoing professional development, the need to include all students, and the importance of scientific literacy.

In addition to this lead paper, the following position papers are available:

- ♦ Accountability
- ♦ Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Animals in the Classroom
- ♦ Assessment
- ♦ Science Competitions
- ♦ The Use of Computers in Science Education
- ♦ Criteria for Applying Distance Learning to Science Education
- ♦ Elementary School Science
- ♦ Environmental Education and the Use of Natural Resources in Science Teaching
- ♦ The Teaching of Evolution
- ♦ Freedom to Teach and the Freedom to Learn
- ♦ Gender Equity in Science Education
- ♦ Informal Science Education
- ♦ International Science Education and the National Science Teachers Association
- ♦ K–16 Coordination
- ♦ Laboratory Science

- ♦ Leadership in Science Education
- ♦ Learning Conditions for High School Science
- ♦ Liability of Teachers for Laboratory Safety and Field Trips
- ♦ Use of the Metric System
- ♦ Multicultural Science Education
- ♦ The *National Science Education Standards*
- ♦ Nature of Science
- ♦ Parent Involvement in Science Education
- ♦ Research in Science Education
- ♦ The Role of Research in Science Teaching
- ♦ Safety and School Science Instruction
- ♦ Science Education for Middle Level Students
- ♦ NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation
- ♦ Science Teacher Professionalism
- ♦ Science/Technology/Society: A New Effort for Providing Appropriate Science for All
- ♦ The Teaching of Sexuality and Human Reproduction
- ♦ Substance Use and Abuse

Whether you are looking for ways to improve your own science teaching or interested in providing information to parents or community members, NSTA's official position papers can offer you a sound voice on important issues affecting science education today.

