

Iowa Science Standards

Tips for Non-formal Science Educators Working with Classroom Teachers



What do you offer that schools and teachers cannot do on their own or at school?

- Consider on-site phenomenon
- Consider portable phenomenon you can take to classes
- Consider your training and expertise
- Emphasize any of these offerings.

Redesign your programs to align with the Iowa Science Standards.

- Select the grade-specific Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI) that your program supports.
- Shift your focus from helping students “learn about” to helping them “figure out.”
- Select and incorporate the grade specific elements of the Crosscutting Concepts (CCC) and the Science and Engineering Practices (SEP) that will help students grapple with your content.
- Programs should bring together SEPs, CCs and DCIs.

Adapt one program at a time and...

- Use it, observe, and evaluate it
- Get feedback from teachers
- Adapt another program.

A protocol for alignment of the programs of non-formal educators with the Iowa Science Standards has been developed by the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC). It includes all materials needed for this alignment work. The summer of 2016 was spent creating at least one aligned program for each grade K-8 as well as high school. These programs and the protocol will be presented at the annual winter conference to be held February 3 & 4, 2017 at Springbrook Conservation Education Center.