

**RSU 56 9-12 SCIENCE GRADUATION BENCHMARK STANDARDS 25/26:** NEXT GEN  
SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS) REFERENCED 10/25

The following Science Graduation Benchmark standards will be reported at DHS during the 2025-2026 school year. Over a multi-year process, these standards were identified as the most essential learning for all students. RSU 56 uses a dual reporting format in grades 6 through 12. In addition to reporting performance on the essential Graduation Benchmark Standards listed below, overall student performance for all Science standards is also reported in a traditional grading format. The DHS Course Catalog explains the course offerings that students can pursue to earn graduation credit as well as demonstrate proficiency in the Graduation Benchmark Standards required by RSU 56 Graduation Policy IKF. As evident in the DHS Course Catalog, there are multiple pathways to demonstrating proficiency and earning the required credits.

For more information about [Next Gen Science Standards \(NGSS\) adopted in Maine](#), click here.

| Grade | General Pathway        | PowerSchool NGSS Reporting Standard          |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 9     | Foundations of Science | SCI.ESS.2-2 Geoscience                       |
| 9     | Foundations of Science | SCI.ESS.3-1 Changes in Human Activity        |
| 10    | Biology                | SCI.LS.3-1 DNA to Traits                     |
| 10    | Biology                | SCI.LS.4-1 Evidence for Biological Evolution |
| 11    | Chemistry              | SCI.PS.1-1 Periodic Law                      |
| 11    | Chemistry              | SCI.PS.3-1 - Energy Flow and Conservation    |
| 11    | Physics                | SCI.PS.2-3 - Impulse-Momentum Theorem        |

\*\* RSU 56 is currently reviewing and updating core texts in support of Science course offerings.

National Geographic Earth and Space Science, Cengage (2022), is the core text provided for Foundations of Science. [Click here for more information.](#)