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# Teaching and Learning

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



Tuesday, March 10, 2026

## K-12 Science

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If you have information or opportunities you'd like to share in the monthly K-12 Science newsletter, please send a request to [gavin.fradel@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:gavin.fradel@dpi.nc.gov) no later than the third Monday of every month. **Note: Not all requested items are guaranteed to be included.**

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### K-12 Science Support Documents Updates

The NCDPI K-12 Science Team released updates to the K-12 Science Support Documents in September, 2025. These updates reflect feedback collected from the field and our grade level/content area Science Leadership Teams. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and input, which help us strengthen these resources for everyone. Please continue to provide feedback on these documents using the [K-12 Support Document Feedback Form](#).

To make changes easier to locate, a spreadsheet with detailed updates for each grade and course is available on the Canvas Hub under the "[K-12 Support Documents](#)" page.

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### 2025-2026 NCDPI K-12 Science Office Hours

The K-12 Science Section will offer office hours during the 2025-26 School Year. Each session will focus on a particular topic and target a specific audience. A certificate of attendance will be issued for participants attending the full hour. Information about upcoming sessions and registration can also be found on the DPI website as well as on the [Professional Development Button](#) found on the NC [K-12 Science Standards Resource Hub](#). You can view the session descriptions, intended audience, as well as register for the upcoming Office Hours on the Registration button below.

## Office Hours Information and Registration

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## Professional Development and Classroom Opportunities

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### NC DNA Day

***Would you like a scientist from one of NC's leading research institutions to talk with your high school science classroom in late April?***

Each year in late April, NC DNA Day sends scientists to classrooms across NC. During the visit, the scientist will teach an interactive and engaging module on an aspect of genetics and biotechnology. In addition, the ambassador will talk with your students about his or her own research and about exciting careers in biotechnology!

Please visit <http://ncdnaday.org/sign-up/teachers/> to sign up to have a scientist speak with your high school classroom and present an engaging module covering a topic related to genetics and genomics!

#### **What Teachers are Saying...**

*"DNA Day has been a wonderful addition to my classroom for the past 3 years... My students love it when they have "real life scientists" come talk to them. It helps the students see that science is "real" and can be fun and interesting and is truly part of their actual life."*

*"The presentation was fantastic, and my students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were motivated and engaged!"*

*"This presentation completely supplemented what we've been doing in my classes this year. It gave the students something to think about and demonstrated the relevance of what we're learning."*

**What Students are Saying...**

*"I forgot how much one could do with a background in science. It opens doors that I can't wait to discover."*

*"The ideas/concepts were presented in a colorful way yet understandable way to both teach us and keep our attention."*

*"Today I realized that there were many more career options in science than I realized before."*

**\*Deadline to request a visit extended to March 22\***

**Information and Application**

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# Building Engineers in K-5 Classrooms: 2026 Conference

*May 4th, 2026*



*Register Now:*

[go.ncsu.edu/be2026](https://go.ncsu.edu/be2026)



- **Free** Registration!
- **Free** Lunch!
- **The BEST** hands-on STEM PD from the **BEST** K-5 presenters!



*This year's location:  
NC State's McKimmon  
Center*

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# JUNE 22-28

## Genomic Sequencing Workshop



Free Opportunity  
for High-School and  
Undergraduate Students  
Boarding and meals included

### Contribute to:

- ✓ **DNA Extraction and Analysis**  
Assemble the genome of the Gray Petaltail Dragonfly (*Tachopteryx thoreyi*) alongside biologists.
- ✓ **Conservation and Management**  
Assess the genetic diversity of reintroduced *T. thoreyi* populations through field and lab work.
- ✓ **Peer-Reviewed Article Publication**  
Previous student-generated papers published in BMC Evolutionary Biology and covered by the New York Times.
- ✓ **Presentation of Results**  
Prepare findings for presentation at the 2026 Dragonfly Society of the Americas Conference.

### Workshop Schedule:

**MON & TUE** Collect dragonflies in the field.

**WED & THU** Extract DNA and perform labwork.

**FRI, SAT & SUN** Prepare and present results.

### REGISTER HERE



Contact [jaq8bug@gmail.com](mailto:jaq8bug@gmail.com) with questions



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Funded by the National Science Foundation Award No. 2405230

## Cybersecurity in Math and Science Elementary Curriculum

### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### EMPOWER YOUR STUDENTS WITH CYBERSECURITY KNOWLEDGE!

Are you a 4th-5th grade math or science teacher looking to integrate cybersecurity into your lessons? We'd like to invite you to participate in our cybersecurity teacher professional development program and complete research activities!

**\$2,000 stipend for teachers in experimental group and \$1250 for teachers in control group.**



#### DATES



**Experimental Group:** Online Asynchronous PD - June/July 2026 ; Design Thinking Institute Days (in person in Raleigh): July 27 and 28, 2026. Classroom Implementation - Aug - Nov 2026.

**Control Group:** Research Activities - August - November 2026; Asynchronous Online PD - following research activities.

#### PD MODULES



The PD course on cybersecurity will include four 10-hour modules on four topics to provide cybersecurity content knowledge.



**Module 1**  
Cyberbullying



**Module 2**  
Digital Footprint



**Module 3**  
Digital Privacy



**Module 4**  
Digital Security

**INTERESTED?**  
Complete the application  
using the link below!



**[go.ncsu.edu/  
cims2026](https://go.ncsu.edu/cims2026)**

*This **FREE** professional development is designed for 4th-5th grade teachers in North Carolina and beyond!*

**NC STATE**



**If you have any questions, please contact us:**

Dr. Florence Martin [fmartin3@ncsu.edu](mailto:fmartin3@ncsu.edu), Dr. Rebekah Davis [rsdavis2@ncsu.edu](mailto:rsdavis2@ncsu.edu)



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**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

## Be Sure to Save the Date!

*Fourth Annual* **Reach for the Stars! Be a Star!**

STEM and Resource Fair for K-12 Students with Disabilities, who are interested in STEM and STEM Careers. Families and Friends are invited too!



**When:** April 18th, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Where:** McKimmon Center, NC State University, 1101 Gorman St.  
Raleigh, NC, 27606

**About this Event:** Spark curiosity and celebrate possibility at our inclusive, accessible STEM & Resource Fair for K-12 students with disabilities, families, and friends. Explore 70+ hands-on tables, each with an interactive activity to build knowledge and confidence, and meet professors, graduate students, and STEM professionals showcasing STEM content and educational and career pathways. Connect with resource providers, attend speaker sessions on topics that matter, and enjoy free raffle tickets, prizes, bags, and snacks. Drop in anytime – no registration required – for a day of discovery, mentorship, and fun.

This event is **FREE** and no registration is required! All are welcome!

**For more information you can contact:**

- Catalyst Director Joann Blumenfeld by phone at 919-633-3120 or by email at [jrb Blumen@ncsu.edu](mailto:jrb Blumen@ncsu.edu)
  - Catalyst Program Coordinator Jessica Yose by phone at 919-618-0433 or by email at [jnyose@ncsu.edu](mailto:jnyose@ncsu.edu)
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## Biomanufacturing Workshop for K-12 Educators



BTEC's **NIIMBL eXperience for Educators** is a two-day workshop designed to empower educators with the knowledge and resources to introduce students to the field of biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

- **Dates:** August 3rd & 4th, 2026 from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- **Cost:** Free for selected participants (Includes meals and resources)
- **Location:** Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC), NC State University Centennial Campus, Raleigh, NC

### Information and Registration

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## Job Shadow Opportunity for High School Students at Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium

Our aquarium offers job shadows to students in grades 9-12. Each student is able to register for a full 8-hour day at the aquarium—whether for their own interest, a class requirement, or community service—where they'd shadow multiple different professions through their daily routine.

### Information and Application

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*Back by popular demand!*

# Growing Success for MLs and The Standards Academy

**Save the 2026  
Summer  
Conference  
Dates!**

**Face to Face  
June 23 - 25**

*Cleveland High School  
1892 Polenta Road,  
Clayton NC 27520*

**Virtual  
July 13 - 16**

High-quality, Research-  
based Sessions

Statewide Collaboration  
and Networking

Alignment and  
Consistency

Experts from across the  
State and NCDPI



**STANDARDS  
ACADEMY 2026**



## Brochure and Registration Information

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# 11 PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER EDUCATION

**BUILDING SCHOOL CULTURES WHERE EVERY STUDENT THRIVES**

**March 25, 2026 | 9:00-4:00**

**Harnett County Schools  
Gentry Educator Development Center  
114 Porter Drive Erwin, NC 28339**

Join NCDPI for an interactive workshop on the 11 Principles of Character Education. Learn practical strategies, explore NC success stories, and gain tools to strengthen school culture and support your School of Character application. Participants will gain:

- A clear overview of each principle
- Strategies to improve school culture
- Guidance for the School of Character application



**REGISTER NOW**

<https://go.ncdpi.gov/March25>



Presented by NCDPI Character Education  
Questions? Contact [Justyn.Burgess@ncdpi.nc.gov](mailto:Justyn.Burgess@ncdpi.nc.gov)



North Carolina Department of  
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## Registration

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### Multilingual Learner Education Updates

#### 3rd Annual English Language Development Recognition Award

Recognizing ML Teachers of Excellence!

The [nomination process](#) for the [2025-26 ELD Recognition Award](#) is now open! If you would like to nominate an ESL/ML teacher of excellence, please contact the ML leadership team and let them know. The nominee will submit a portfolio highlighting their initiatives and contributions. The nomination process will close on May 17. If you have any questions, please reach out to [walter.moore@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:walter.moore@dpi.nc.gov) or [marshall.foster@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:marshall.foster@dpi.nc.gov). Or, drop in during our [office hours](#), Thursdays at 10:30.

#### Effective Content Instruction for ML Students in Reading and Listening

Turn reading and listening into exciting adventures for your multilingual learners! Join us for a lively professional development session where you'll discover creative, research-backed strategies to boost ML students' skills while diving deep into meaningful content. Unlock the secrets to blending explicit language instruction with engaging, content-rich activities that make reading and listening come alive.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 8, 3:30-5:00 pm

[Registration](#)

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### Teaching Positions open for the 2026 session of NC Governor's School!

Come and work with talented and intellectually engaged high school students in a thriving learning community this summer – without grades!

NCDPI is specifically seeking creative, engaging teachers. This is an opportunity to play a role in shaping a life-changing summer for these amazing students. More information can be found on the [employment page of our Governor's School Website](#). Teachers are needed for both Governor's School campuses, hosted by Greensboro College and Meredith College. GS is currently seeking instructors for Area II/Philosophy, Instrumental Music, Math, Natural Science, Social Science, Spanish, and Visual Arts. Along with openings for office positions and coordinators for Communications and Technology. We also have openings for our GS Fellows program, a five-week paid internship. Being a GS Fellow offers an opportunity to gain leadership experience through working with students in residential life, assisting in classrooms, and leading campus events. For more information and to apply, visit the [employment page of our Governor's School Website](#).

Governor's School will take place June 21-July 18, with employees arriving on June 15 to begin orientation. We will be reviewing applications and conducting interviews in the coming weeks. If you have questions regarding any openings, reach out to us at [ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!

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## Accessibility Updates

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing an accessible online experience, the Office of Teaching and Learning is updating website content to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards. These updates ensure that our digital services are usable by everyone. During this process, some documents and materials on our website may be temporarily removed or unavailable while they are being reviewed and remediated for accessibility.

If you need access to a document that is currently unavailable, please contact the corresponding person and content area below. We will provide the requested materials as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to enhance our website's accessibility for all users.

Office of Teaching and Learning General Information, Global Education - [kelly.schultz@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:kelly.schultz@dpi.nc.gov)  
Science, Math, and STEM - [charles.aiken@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:charles.aiken@dpi.nc.gov)  
Social Studies, Arts Education, Character Education, Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act - [lori.carlin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lori.carlin@dpi.nc.gov)  
English Language Arts, English Language Development, Literacy Instruction Standards, World Languages, Dual Language/Immersion - [stacy.daniel@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:stacy.daniel@dpi.nc.gov)  
Healthy Schools - [ellen.essick@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ellen.essick@dpi.nc.gov)

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## NCDPI Science Consultants

### Dr. Debra Hall

K-5 Science  
[debra.hall@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:debra.hall@dpi.nc.gov)

### Gavin Fradel

6-8 Science  
[gavin.fradel@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:gavin.fradel@dpi.nc.gov)

### Benita Tipton

9-12 Science  
[benita.tipton@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:benita.tipton@dpi.nc.gov)

### Alexis Wood

9-12 Science  
[kathryn.wood@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:kathryn.wood@dpi.nc.gov)

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## Additional Contacts

### Dr. Charles Aiken

Section Chief K-12 Mathematics, Science and STEM  
[charles.aiken@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:charles.aiken@dpi.nc.gov)

## Howard Ginsburg

K-12 Integrative STEM Specialist

[howard.ginsburg@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:howard.ginsburg@dpi.nc.gov)

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