

## Next Generation Science Standards prepare students for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century World

Science, technology, engineering and math are the foundations for innovation. STEM-educated students find solutions to the many challenges faced by our nation and the world today.

In our increasingly complex, demanding and competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century world, students must develop the skills needed to succeed in the jobs of the future. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will change the way science is taught and learned in classrooms nationwide by fully engaging K-12 students in three essential dimensions—disciplinary core ideas, scientific and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts—in a way that will deepen and strengthen their knowledge and skills in science.

California State PTA believes that to remain competitive in a global society, the U.S. has a responsibility to provide educational programs and support services to develop responsible, productive citizens for tomorrow. California State PTA works to support efforts to improve STEM education, enabling more students to acquire skills for access to higher education and employment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

For more information on the Next Generation Science Standards, visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

For more information about California State PTA's resolution on STEM education, visit <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/resolutions.cfm>.

## PTA and Radio Disney bring 'Science Rocks!' to the Bay Area

In a unique partnership, California State PTA and Radio Disney are getting more than 7,000 elementary-school kids in the Bay Area excited about science through the dynamic educational Science Rocks program. By blending education and entertainment, the program raises awareness about science and science careers, and helps to make science “cool.” The program features a 45-minute school-wide assembly showcasing Radio Disney performers.

Science Rocks is being offered to 14 elementary schools this winter as part of a grant that California State PTA received.

“Right now, the U.S. education system does not prepare enough of our students with skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to help them compete for jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, global workforce,” says California State PTA Vice President for Education Dianna MacDonald. “Science Rocks is a way to reach elementary students and help make science exciting for them.”

Additionally, the program offers a short classroom activity based on the principles illustrated in the assembly. It also increases parental awareness about the importance of encouraging and supporting their children's interest in science, technology, engineering and math with take-home materials.

“Parents and educators, in particular, need greater awareness about how important it is for students to advance their proficiency levels and become highly skilled in STEM fields,” says MacDonald. “At the conclusion of the program, our hope is that students will be more excited about science and see that science does in fact, rock!”



Radio Disney performers used games, demonstrations and break dancing to show students that Science Rocks! during a 45-minute school assembly.

