



# Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework

## *Introduction*

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The 2003 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* can be found in PDF and Microsoft Word file formats on the Virginia Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html>.

# **Science**

## **Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework**

The *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* amplifies the *Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* and defines the content knowledge, skills, and understandings that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The *Science Curriculum Framework* provides additional guidance to school divisions and their teachers as they develop an instructional program appropriate for their students. It assists teachers as they plan their lessons by identifying essential understandings and defining the essential content knowledge, skills, and processes students need to master. This supplemental framework delineates in greater specificity the minimum content that all teachers should teach and all students should learn.

School divisions should use the *Science Curriculum Framework* as a resource for developing sound curricular and instructional programs. This framework should not limit the scope of instructional programs. Additional knowledge and skills that can enrich instruction and enhance students' understanding of the content identified in the Standards of Learning should be included as part of quality learning experiences.

The Board of Education recognizes that school divisions will adopt a K–12 instructional sequence that best serves their students. The design of the Standards of Learning assessment program, however, requires that all Virginia school divisions prepare students to demonstrate achievement of the standards for elementary and middle school by the time they complete the grade levels tested. The high school end-of-course Standards of Learning tests, for which students may earn verified units of credit, are administered in a locally determined sequence.