

PARENT SUPPORT LETTER

February 6, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

As parents, we want our children to go beyond memorization of facts and become critical thinkers. Scientific exploration is based on a systematic analysis of the natural world. Facts are important, but the understanding of them must also be expanded and deepened. We want our children to ask questions, recognize and construct arguments, and understand complex issues. Our goal is to build our children's confidence and ability to explore and develop lines of reasoning.

Complex issues are approached and taught from the perspective of the most widely accepted and current scientific explanation for those respective fields of study. These standards provide a foundation to begin the conversation.

Each stakeholder group involved in this process brought forth intelligence, experience, and commitment to the table, and discussion has been beneficial to all the standards. Since the State Board of Education authorized the Science Standards Review Committee (SSRC) in the spring of 2015, the committee has met for many hours, both face-to-face and virtually. With so many perspectives and views, we have had to debate the merits of all viewpoints and decide on what's best for the education of Wyoming students.

Due to the ever-evolving nature of scientific knowledge and discovery, we recommend that these science standards be reviewed and discussed on a more frequent basis than statutorily required. We strongly encourage all Wyoming parents to take advantage of every opportunity to be involved in Wyoming education through their local schools, districts, and in communication with their elected officials.

Sincerely,

Wyoming Science Standards Review Committee