

## More February Science News

There are several proposed measures before the Oklahoma Legislature this session that if passed, would affect Science Education.

### **House Bill 1706**

House Bill 1706 ( proposed committee substitute) calls for the elimination of **Grade 5 Science assessment**, all Social Studies assessments (grade 5, 7, 8, and high school EOI), as well as high school geometry EOI, and the Arts Assessment process in Grade 3-8.

### **Senate Bill 1111**

This bill creates a new “Education Oversight Board” and **moves all student assessment, school data collection (the WAVE), and supporting federal monies to this new agency**. The bill requires an outside organization to do a curriculum crosswalk of Oklahoma PASS with the NAEP framework and also eliminates the Grade 5 Social Studies assessment and the Grade 8 U.S. History/ Constitution/ Government assessment.

### **Senate Bill 766**

SB 766 requires the State Department of Education to adopt readiness standards for high school level preparation for middle school students, **including standards for math, science and English**.

### **Oklahoma Legislature Home Page**

See <<http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/>> to read the full text of the bills listed above, track a bill, or locate your senator or representative.

### **NASA's Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate**

NASA has unveiled the Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project. The goal of the project is to ensure that teachers across the country can use the discoveries that NASA makes on a daily basis to inspire the next generation of explorers, scientists, engineers, and astronauts. The program will provide workshops, online and on-site graduate courses and NASA content and materials to teachers and students in K-12 classrooms. NASA will work in partnership with state departments of education to ensure program participants can apply credit from project courses towards state certification requirements. Visit <<http://www.us-satellite.net/endeavor/index.cfm>>.

### **Supplies for Teachers**

As teachers, you know your students' needs best. Donorschoose.org provides an avenue for public school teachers to submit project requests for the specific materials their students need to learn. Donors choose which projects to support. Once a project is funded, the materials are delivered directly to the school. In return, teachers submit photos of the project in use and thank-you notes from students, which are then sent to

the project's donors. Requests under \$400 have the best chance of being funded. Find out more information or post a request at <[www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)>.

### **New Moon Posters for Download**

A series of three posters, designed for students in grades 6-9, explores what — and how — we know about our Moon's formation and evolution, and how its history affects lunar resources. The front of the posters provide content depth for students, while back panels provide educators with information, activities, stories about the Moon, resources, and introductions to lunar scientists.

See [http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moon\\_poster.shtml](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moon_poster.shtml).

### **Project 3D-VIEW (Virtual Interactive Environmental Worlds)**

This interdisciplinary science curriculum for Grades 5 -6 utilizes simple-to-use 3D technologies and is designed to increase student performance in science by building understanding of difficult concepts. There are no fees for training, materials, rubrics, and assessments. Visit <http://www.3dview.org/index.html>.



### **Galaxy Zoo**

Teachers and students can help scientists classify galaxies using this site to in online classification and analysis of galaxies using real data. The results are used in scientific research.

More information at <http://www.galaxyzoo.org/>.



### **MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough Schools Award**

**Purpose:** The goal of the project is to identify, recognize, and showcase middle level and high schools that serve large numbers of students living in poverty and are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement. Selected schools must have 40% or more students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Awards are in the amount of \$5,000 to 10 schools. **Deadline:** May 15, 2009.

To apply for this grant, complete the nomination form available on the Breakthrough Schools website at [www.principals.org/breakthrough](http://www.principals.org/breakthrough) from February 15 through May 15, 2009.

### **Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program**

The Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) who help make their communities better places. Kohl's will award more than \$350,000 in scholarships and prizes to more than 2,000 kids whose volunteer efforts have made positive impacts on their communities. Maximum awards are \$50 - \$50,000. Nominees must be legal U.S. residents of a state in which a Kohl's store is located. Nominees must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate as of March 15, 2009. Each nominee must be nominated by someone

age 21 years or older. Deadline for nomination is March 15, 2009.

See <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/AboutKohls/AboutKohls01.htm> or e-mail [kohls@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:kohls@scholarshipamerica.org) for more information.

**NANODAYS 2009, MARCH 28 - APRIL 5**

NanoDays is the Nanoscale Informal Science Education (NISE) Network's annual celebration of nanoscale science, technology, and engineering. NISE Net provides access to hands-on activities, downloadable media, and science and education professionals that can all help support institutions as they organize their events. This year's event spans March 28 - April 5, 2009.

A wealth of resources for educators and others are available at [www.nisenet.org/nanodays](http://www.nisenet.org/nanodays). There are free downloadable resources available to anyone who registers, including K-12 educators, libraries, and other educational organizations. Many of the activities use inexpensive, readily available supplies. More information is at [www.nisenet.org](http://www.nisenet.org).

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Anyone interested in science education is welcome to join the science list serv by contacting Jana Rowland at <[Jana\\_Rowland@sde.state.ok.us](mailto:Jana_Rowland@sde.state.ok.us)>.

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For more information about science education in Oklahoma, visit our website at <<http://sde.state.ok.us>>.