**Relevant NGSS standards in the SPIRALS program**

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| **Standard**  *Planning and Carrying Out Investigations* | | | |
| <http://nextgenscience.org/search-standards>  **Performance Expectation**  The activities outline in this article are just one step toward reaching the performance expectations listed below:  *Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.* | | | |
| **Dimension** | | **NGSS Code** | **Matching student task** |
| Science and  Engineering Practice 3 | Collect data about the performance of a proposed object, tool, process, or system under a range of conditions. | | Students created a systems map prior and after the investigation as a way to organize and plan for an exploration of the level of sustainability within a community-based practice. |
| Crosscutting Concept | Systems and Systems models | | Students created a systems map of a community practice they thought might be sustainable.  Students investigated the sustainability of is a community-based practice. |
| Disciplinary Core Ideas | MS-LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems | | Students use systems mapping as a tool to visualize the interactions between a human-nature coupled system within their communities. |