

Strands and Review Criteria

Strands provide a foundation and context for proposals for the following sessions: poster sessions, 60-minute presentations, and 60-minute hands-on workshops. The descriptions and examples below provide some additional clarity about the strand and what will be prioritized when evaluating proposals for inclusion in the NSTA program. The list of examples is not meant to be all-inclusive.

Strand	Descriptions
Curriculum and Assessment	Proposals in this strand should focus on improving science and STEM classroom teaching and learning through the use of high-quality instructional materials or assessments. These sessions should deepen the educator's knowledge base and instructional practice. Instructional materials/curriculum or assessment materials used as the context or as examples are required to be OER or open to all free of charge.
Equity and Justice	Proposals in this strand should focus on equitable classroom practices or science teaching and learning for all. This strand also includes specific examples or approaches to enhancing the participation of traditionally underrepresented and underserved students in science and STEM through the lens of equity and social justice.
Student Learning and Inclusion	Proposals in this strand should focus on including all children in the learning. Examples include inclusive environments, culturally relevant pedagogies, anti-bias teaching, special needs and inclusion, celebrations in the classroom, and multilingual learners.
Teaching Strategies and Classroom Practice	Proposals in this strand should focus on research-based teaching strategies that improve science teaching and learning. Strategies should support Framework -based shifts in science education and be grounded in equity. Proposals connected to sensemaking , 3D learning, the use of phenomena to drive instruction, supporting the equitable sharing of student ideas, or science and literacy/interdisciplinary connections will be prioritized.
Research to Practice	Proposals in this strand should focus on highlighting a specific research project, publication, or finding in education and how it can be implemented in the classroom. Proposals that use specific classroom examples or specific classroom strategies will be prioritized.
Avoiding Teacher Burnout	Proposals in this strand should focus on supporting the <i>whole teacher</i> . Examples include stress management, social and emotional health, teacher leadership, fitness, and life and work balance.
Technology and Media	Proposals in this strand should focus on technology and/or media that support science/STEM teaching and learning. Proposals that prioritize equity, inclusion, computer science, and data science will be prioritized.
Leadership and Advocacy	Proposals in this strand should focus on supporting science/STEM leaders as change agents or on raising the profile of science education. The target audience can be educators or partners in the classroom, building/site, district, or at the national level. Examples include professional development (job-embedded professional learning, enactment of high-quality curriculum, instruction and/or assessment), emerging research areas, science/STEM professional learning for administrators, management ideas, leading and learning, school branding and social media, working with new teachers, and retaining teachers.
No Strand	If your proposal cannot be strongly connected to any strand above, please choose this option.

Review Criteria

The following key elements will be used by reviewers to evaluate session proposals.

- Alignment to conference strand, theme, or focus area.
- Degree of connection to the Framework, NGSS, state standards, or peer-reviewed contemporary research.
- Focus on equity or Science/STEM for all
- Use of specific classroom examples, student work, specific strategies, or specific projects/lessons/units.



Conference Strands

- Curriculum and Assessment
- Equity and Justice
- Student Learning and Inclusion
- Teaching Strategies and Classroom Practice
- Research to Practice
- Avoiding Teacher Burnout
- Technology and Media
- Leadership and Advocacy



Session Focused Topics

- Assessment
- Tools and Routines to Support Sensemaking
- STEAM or STEM
- Science and Engineering Practices
- Technology and Media
- Data Science or Computer Science
- Helping Students Share Ideas
- Integrating Literacy and Science



30 MIN. PRESENTATION

Session Themes

- Assessment
- Sensemaking
- STEAM or STEM
- Teaching Strategies and Classroom Practice
- Research to Practice
- Technology and Media
- Leadership and Advocacy
- Professional Learning



60 MIN. PRESENTATION

Conference Strands

- Curriculum and Assessment
- Equity and Justice
- Student Learning and Inclusion
- Teaching Strategies and Classroom Practice
- Research to Practice
- Avoiding Teacher Burnout
- Technology and Media
- Leadership and Advocacy



Conference Strands

- Curriculum and Assessment
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- Technology and Media



Audience

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School
- Informal Education
- International