

F.A.S.T Position Statement on Science Leaders

It is the position of the Florida Association of Science Teachers that district level leaders provide sustained and continuous support for standards, assessment, and curriculum implementation. Specialist leadership at the district level is necessary to sustain excellence in science education.

The students in our school systems today are preparing to enter a world of geometrically expanding technology and knowledge. Without a firm grounding in the principles and current practices of science, those students will be unprepared to analyze and solve the complex practices of science, those student will be unprepared to analyze and solve the complex problem they will face in tomorrow's world. This need for excellence in science education is addressed in the Sunshine State Standards which seek to define quality science instruction.

The accountability which these standards bring requires articulation of science instruction which can change with the progress of science and development in instructional technology. When school site administrators are generalists they may not be sensitive to the particular needs of science education.

The ability to develop and provide appropriate programs to meet the varying needs of students requires extensive knowledge of science program alternatives, technical innovation and program evaluation and assessment. The orientation and staff development training of teachers of kindergarten through twelfth science requires knowledge and experience for the efficient preparation, safe conduct, management of pupil time and leading and teaching resources.

Unless classroom teachers of science can be provided leadership by science professional possessing these specialized skilled and background, the goal of science education cannot be sustained.