

Standards changing in Coventry's classrooms

Next Generation Science Standards being implemented

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COVENTRY —Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), established a year ago designed to give all students the skills and knowledge the need to be informed citizens, college-ready and prepared for careers are moving ahead, slow and steady, said Teresa Medeiros a former science teacher in Coventry who is now an education quality coordinator in the district.

She explained in a recent presentation before the school committee that the framework for science education for grades kindergarten through 12 breaks down to see patterns and connections and always building on the knowledge they already have so they can see a different perspective.

“With traditional science, it’s about facts and topics; with the standards, it’s about

Standards shift will be implemented in Cov.

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combining practices with crosscutting concepts and forming core ideas," she said. "It's about asking questions and problem solving."

"It also deals with developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations and analyzing and interpreting data, among other things," she explained.

The second dimension, crosscutting concepts, focuses on patterns and cause and effect.

The other focus is about life science, physical science and earth and space science.

While the curriculum for the remaining grades is still being worked on, grade four life science, earth science and physical science curriculums along with grade six life science and high school chemistry are being implemented.

She explained how educators will identify prior and future learning connected

with each unit and determine the essential understanding of each unit.

This is a four-year process, begun last year, that will focus on students developing a deeper understanding of content as well as the application of content.

"This new way of thinking is going to shift how we have to instruct," she said. "Students can explore the best engineering and arrive at their own conclusions."

Medeiros explained that by the end of June, educators are hoping to have all the units fully developed and to align the resources the resources that will align with the curriculum.

She said the curriculum goals this year include unit overviews for kindergarten through grade 12 as well as a complete curriculum and aligned resources for kindergarten and grades four, five and six along with high school chemistry.

"We're making sure we develop a curriculum for all learners," she said.