

NSELA Safety Position Statement Overview – 01/02/2022

Safety Committee Members –

Dr. Ken Roy – Chair

Dr. Mary Loesing

Dr. Kevin Doyle

NSELA Safety Position Statements

Science education continues to be in the midst of major curricular and instructional changes. This evolution is being fostered by:

1. The continued implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and other newly revised standards based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education [Note: not every state adopted NGSS];
2. The continued need for hands-on science instruction in which students are actively involved in handling materials;
3. The increasing number of outdated and/or insufficient laboratory and classroom facilities;
4. The high frequency of retirements by veteran science supervisors and teachers resulting in the need for safety compliance training of new teachers and continued need for updating veteran teacher safety training.
5. The pressures of shrinking science supply & personnel budgets.

Science educators are legally responsible for making their laboratory instructional spaces safer places for students to learn. In efforts to help science leaders better address these issues, the following six NSELA Safety Position Statements have been updated and approved by the NSELA Board of Directors. These position statements reflect and are based on the most current legal safety standards and better professional safety practices. Science leadership should read and be familiar with these Statements in efforts to better protect themselves, science teachers and students. Included in these statements are:

1. Safety & Duty of Care
2. Science Education Leader Support for the Implementation/ Enforcement of OSHA's Hazard Communications & Lab Standard Programs
3. Science Teaching Conditions
4. Occupancy Loads in School Science Laboratories and classrooms,
5. Experiments/Activities with Human Blood and Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIMs),
6. Code of Practice on the Use of Animals in Science Education

Readers having any questions or needing clarification can contact Dr. Ken Roy, NSELA Safety Compliance Officer:

Dr. Kenneth R. Roy
Director of Environmental Health & Chemical Safety Glastonbury Public Schools (CT);
Safety Compliance Officer,
National Science Education Leadership Association Royk@glastonburyus.org