



Arizona Geological Society Position Statement

Adopted April 9, 2015

The Importance of Teaching Geology at K-12 Levels

Position Statement: Basic knowledge of geology is essential to meeting the environmental challenges and natural resource limitations of the twenty-first century. It is critical that geology education, taught by highly qualified teachers, begin at the kindergarten level and continue with more advanced offerings in secondary school. AGS recommends that the study of geology be an integral component of science education in public and private schools at all levels, from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Rationale: Geology is an integrated science, bringing together biology, chemistry, and physics, as they apply to the workings of the Earth. The applied, and often visual, nature of geology helps students see the connections and relevance of geology to their lives and their communities. Engaging students in learning about the Earth supports the development of problem solving and critical thinking skills and highlights the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers to society. Therefore, geology can serve as an introduction to the life and physical sciences or as a capstone course requiring students to apply their knowledge of these sciences. Geology can also serve as a framework for investigating life and physical sciences in museums and other informal education venues.

AGS encourages the following:

- Teaching geology at all levels of K-12 school systems;
- Teaching geology at the same academic level as physics, chemistry, and biology;
- Teaching geology as a high school laboratory capstone science course that contributes toward college admission credit;
- Inclusion of undergraduate and/or graduate geology courses in all teacher candidate preparation for those seeking elementary and middle childhood licensures, depending upon state and institutional requirements.

AGS encourages its members to:

- Dedicate one day per year, in a school classroom or in the field, teaching geologic concepts to students. Employers are encouraged to support their staff who are willing to donate their time in this effort.

AGS prepared this position statement, which is based on a Geological Society of America position statement on the same topic, because AGS members recognize the importance of geologic education to the future of society and our chosen profession.