Next Gen Science Standards focus on STEM Practices – behaviors, skills, and activities – that involve a range of social, learning, language, and physical skills that can challenge students with disabilities.

STEM IDENTITY

1. Historic lack of diversity in STEM fields, especially among people with disabilities
2. Identity and perception as someone who “belongs” in STEM are important for motivation
3. When students can see themselves as a “scientist” they are more engaged learners

THINK ABOUT

How might you structure STEM activities in ways that give all your students the opportunity to envision themselves as scientists and engineers? How might you use assistive and instructional technology to improve access?

MAKE STEM MORE ACCESSIBLE

Use inquiry-based STEM curriculum that includes scenarios, simulations, and immersive environments

Explore a variety of virtual and hands-on activities that allow students to practice being scientists

Integrate collaborations/distance learning with STEM professionals—museums, research laboratories, government agencies