

Grades 9-12

3.2.9-12.X Physical Science: Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation

Students who demonstrate understanding can communicate technical information about how some technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and capture information and energy.

Clarifying Statement: Examples could include solar cells capturing light and converting it to electricity; medical imaging; and communications technology.

Assessment Boundary: Assessments are limited to qualitative information. Assessments do not include band theory.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.

 Communicate technical information or ideas (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically).

Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)

Energy in Chemical Processes

 Solar cells are human-made devices that likewise capture the sun's energy and produce electrical energy.

Wave Properties

 Information can be digitized (e.g., a picture stored as the values of an array of pixels); in this form, it can be stored reliably in computer memory and sent over long distances as a series of wave pulses.

Electromagnetic Radiation

 Photoelectric materials emit electrons when they absorb light of a high-enough frequency.

Information Technologies and Instrumentation

 Multiple technologies based on the understanding of waves and their interactions with matter are part of everyday experiences in the modern world (e.g., medical imaging, communications, scanners) and in scientific research. They are essential tools for producing, transmitting, and capturing signals and for storing and interpreting the information contained in them.

Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)

Cause and Effect

Systems can be designed to cause a desired effect.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

 Science and engineering complement each other in the cycle known as research and development (R&D). Many R&D projects may involve scientists, engineers, and others with wide ranges of expertise.

Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World

 Modern civilization depends on major technological systems. Engineers continuously modify these technological systems by applying scientific knowledge and engineering design practices to increase benefits while decreasing costs and risks.

Pennsylvania Context: Examples of Pennsylvania context include but are not limited to geographic features in Pennsylvania that limit the transmission of electromagnetic waves across the state.

PA Career Ready Skills: Select expressive communication strategies specific to context.

Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices

Science, Technology & Engineering, and Environment Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS)



Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
Agriculture (AFNR)	CS.01.02.01.a: Research technologies used in AFNR systems.
Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAAEE)	9-12 Strand 1.G. Drawing conclusions and developing explanations: Learners propose explanations that address their initial environmental questions using quantitative and qualitative data and evidence that has been collected and analyzed.
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.6.9-12.B: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	CC.2.4.HS.B.2: Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables. CC.2.4.HS.B.4: Recognize and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments. CC.2.4.HS.B.5: Make inferences and justify conclusions based on sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies.
PA Standards: Social Studies	N/A
Educational Technology (ISTE)	1.6. Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.
Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)	STEL-2X: Cite examples of the criteria and constraints of a product or system and how they affect final design.