

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 29, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION:

MEETING PREPARATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
Gerald R. Mann Jr., Ed.D, Executive Director of Instructional Support  
Candace Pannell, Textbook and Library Media Services Instructional Specialist  
Erica Meili, Interim Science Instructional Specialist  
Dyanna McMullen, Director of Procurement and General Services

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Science Textbook Resource Adoption (Grades 6–12)

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

**SY 2021–2022 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 3: Middle School Educational Experience

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

Professional Learning and Cultural Competency Training for All Staff and Partners

**SUMMARY:**

On September 17, 2020, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) approved the proposed Science Textbook list to support the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning (SOL) Instruction*. All books submitted by publishers underwent two different levels of review to accurately reflect the content outlined in the 2018 *Science SOL* and ensure that the books reflect the rich diversity of Virginia students and communities. We are adopting Secondary Science textbooks using the VDOE-recommended texts. The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership will present the textbook process to the School Board on May 19, 2022.

**BACKGROUND:**

The VDOE has the authority to approve textbooks and other instructional materials used in the state. With the Board of Education's approval, publishers submitted a Publisher's Certification and Agreement form for each textbook being considered for approval. VDOE

## BOARD BRIEF

staff members reviewed the information included in each submitted Publisher's Certification and Agreement form.

Committees of Virginia educators received the Science textbook samples and K–12 Science SOL textbook correlations from publishers. These committees conducted individual analyses of the materials using the evaluation criteria for the SOL correlation, content, bias, and design for instructional planning and support. VDOE staff carefully examined publishers' requests for reconsideration, and staff members began preparing the list of proposed, approved Science textbooks for presentation to the Board.

### ***Textbook Process – VDOE List of Approved Textbooks***

The VDOE administers the textbook review process for the Board of Education and makes recommendations on approval to the Board. Statewide review committees of teachers, division-level content specialists, and subject matter experts compare submitted materials with relevant content in the SOL and report on the correlation between reviewed items and the SOL. The textbook review process places primary responsibility on publishers to ensure the accuracy of their textbooks. Publishers must certify that textbooks submitted for approval have been thoroughly examined and reviewed by qualified content experts for factual accuracy. The findings of the review committees, coupled with the publishers' certification and agreement forms, form the basis of VDOE's recommendations to the Board on the approval of textbooks.

The Alexandria City Public Schools Textbook Selection Committee (TSC) evaluates instructional components of textbooks and ancillary materials from the VDOE list of approved textbooks. The TSC consists of teachers, content and instructional specialists, administrators, and other school community members. TSC members meet and gather feedback from Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and grade-level teams. Samples are also displayed from the vendors/publishers in multiple locations to collect public comments for consideration. Electronic samples are also available.

TSC members meet to discuss their thoughts/notes, individually evaluate the top vendor/publishers using the same evaluation rubric, and make final recommendations. A formal recommendation is prepared and shared with the Superintendent and School Board. Procurement works to negotiate contracts, and once finalized, textbooks are ordered. Online access is provided to teachers, and print materials are distributed to schools and teachers. Professional Development for teachers is offered and ongoing.

### **PUBLIC REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:**

As part of the process, ACPS will offer a public review of the recommended textbooks from **April 26 to May 18, 2022**. Textbook samples are available in the Central Office School Board Room. Textbook samples are also available to view online. School Board members can submit anonymous comments regarding the proposed materials through an online survey.

## BOARD BRIEF

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the materials recommended by the VDOE.

### **IMPACT:**

The newly adopted Secondary Science textbooks will align with the 2018 Science SOL and enhance student understanding of science concepts.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

VDOE-Approved 6–12 Science Textbooks

Public Review of Recommended Secondary Science Textbooks

### **REFERENCE:**

N/A

### **CONTACTS:**

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