

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 16, 2022
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes X
No

FROM: Dyanna McMullen, Director of Procurement and General Services
Gerald R. Mann Jr., Ed.D, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Candace Pannell, Textbook and Library Media Services Instructional Specialist
Julia Neufer, STEM Coordinator and Elementary Math Instructional Specialist

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Dominic B. Turner, Chief Financial Officer

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

TOPIC: Secondary Science Textbook Adoption

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

SY 2022–2023 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation
Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) adopted the revised Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) for Science in 2018. In 2019–2020, the VDOE administered the textbook review process for the Board of Education and made recommendations on approval to the Board. On September 17, 2020, the Board of Education approved a list of recommended textbooks for 6–12 Science textbooks. ACPS initiated a local textbook review process in May 2022 to provide needed materials for the 2022 school year and beyond, in accordance with Policy IIAA, Textbook Selection, and Adoption. The committee reviewed the VDOE-approved list to provide a more comprehensive selection with the potential to meet the needs of students in ACPS.

BACKGROUND:

The secondary Textbook Selection Committee (TSC) included members with diverse educational backgrounds and experiences. Each school principal was invited to select instructional staff members to represent their school. School-based instructional staff members included classroom teachers, instructional coaches, Special Education (SPED) teachers, English Learner (EL) teachers and assistant principals. In addition, instructional specialists from the Offices of Specialized Instruction, Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, English Learners, Technology Integration, and Technology Services all participated as members of the committee.

The TSC carefully compared the materials submitted by vendors with the ACPS Science Textbook to identify topics addressed within each text. The TSC used the following criteria when reviewing instructional materials:

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- Alignment with the Virginia SOL
- Quality of Science content, as presented in student materials and instructional guidance
- Quality of Clever and Canvas integration as well as digital resources and teacher materials
- Quality of assessment materials to provide a balanced approach to assessment
- Quality of the proposed professional development plan

The TSC sought additional feedback from school-based staff through individual and collaborative reviews and meetings of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to evaluate specific offerings by grade level and course. Based on the discussions and feedback regarding alignment with the Virginia SOL and the other identified criteria, specific textbooks were recommended for each course.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the materials recommended by the TSC and approve the associated contracts for these resources:

Secondary Science		
Grade Level	Recommended Book/Online Resource	Publisher
Grades 6-8	Virginia Elevate Science	Savvas Learning Company
Grades 9-12 Core	Active Chemistry ----- Active Physics	Activate Learning
Advanced Placement	Biology for the AP Course 1st Edition ----- Environmental Science for the AP Course 4th Edition	Bedford, Freeman, and Worth
	Chemistry (AP Edition) 10th Edition	Cengage
	College Physics: A Strategic Approach 4th Edition ----- Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach with Modern Physics 5th Edition	Pearson

IMPACT:

ACPS plans to purchase digital materials, physical materials, and professional learning for grades 6–8, grades 9–12 Core Chemistry and Physics and AP Biology; Environmental Science; Chemistry; and Physics I, II, and C. The funding for the textbook adoption was approved as part of the FY2023 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$1,172,880. Given the scope and breadth of high school science courses, the electives courses and a few core science courses are on a different timeline. We will bring the committee recommendations for these courses back to the School Board in the fall. This will allow our teachers to have enough time to review the resources and will ensure that we are selecting materials that will meet the needs of ACPS students and align with the goals of our 2025 Strategic Plan.

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Science Evaluation Criteria

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