

BOARD MEMO

Date: May 19, 2022

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

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
Julia Neufer, STEM Coordinator and Elementary Math 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.

BACKGROUND:

VDOE Textbook Process

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.

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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.

Local Textbook Process

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.

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 offers a public review of the recommended textbooks. Textbook samples are available in the Central Office School Board Room, Textbook Warehouse, and online. School Board members can submit anonymous comments regarding the proposed materials through an online survey.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this memo.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENT:

VDOE-Approved 6–12 Science Textbooks

REFERENCE:

N/A

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