

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: G

Date: July 26, 2012

Title	First Review of Proposed State Approved Textbooks for K-12 Science		
Presenter	Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

Date: March 24, 2011

Action: Granted approval for the Department of Education to proceed with the review of K-12 science textbooks

Action Requested:

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

Date: September 27, 2012

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 2: Accountability of Student Learning
	Goal 3: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 4: Strong Literacy and Mathematics Skills
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers and Administrators
X	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 6: In March 2011, the Board of Education approved a process for approving textbooks for purchase in school divisions. The process involves a determination of the degree to which the content found in the textbooks is correlated with the Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework for each subject.

The Board of Education’s authority for approving textbooks and other instructional materials is prescribed in the *Virginia Constitution* and in the *Code of Virginia*.

Virginia Constitution, Article VIII, § 5 (d)

It [the Board of Education] shall have authority to approve textbooks and instructional aids and materials for use in courses in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Code of Virginia, § 22.1-238

- A. The Board of Education shall have the authority to approve textbooks suitable for use in the public schools and shall have authority to approve instructional aids and materials for use in the public schools. The Board shall publish a list of all approved textbooks on its website and shall list the publisher and the current lowest wholesale price of such textbooks.
- B. Any school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.
- C. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "textbooks" means print or electronic media for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course.

The Board of Education's current textbook regulations specify the types of materials that may be adopted.

Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption, 8 VAC 20-220-30

Only those materials which are designed to provide basic support for the instructional program of a particular content area at an appropriate level will be adopted.

On September 23, 2010, the Board took final action to adopt revised regulations regarding textbooks that will supersede those currently in effect. The revised regulations are currently undergoing the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (APA) and will become effective at the conclusion of that process. When the proposed new regulations become effective, they will state:

Regulations Governing Local School Boards and School Divisions, 8 VAC 20-720 et seq.

8 VAC 20-720-179. Textbooks

A. Textbook approval

1. The Board of Education shall have the authority to approve textbooks for use in the public schools of Virginia.
2. In approving basal textbooks for reading in kindergarten and first grade, the Board shall report to local school boards those textbooks with a minimum decodability standard based on words that students can correctly read by properly attaching speech sounds to each letter to formulate the word at 70 percent or above for such textbooks, in accordance with § 22.1-239 of the *Code of Virginia*.
3. Any local school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with this chapter.
4. Contracts and purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board for use in grades 6-12 shall allow for the purchase of printed textbooks, printed textbooks with electronic files, or electronic textbooks separate and apart from printed versions of the same textbook. Each school board shall have the authority to purchase an assortment of textbooks in any of the three forms listed above.

The Board of Education approved the list of current state-approved K-12 science textbooks on January 7, 2004, following revisions to the *Science Standards of Learning* and *Science Curriculum Framework* in 2003. The Board's 2007-2012 Comprehensive Plan indicated as priorities, revisions to the standards and curriculum frameworks, as well as review of textbooks. On January 10, 2008, the Board approved a schedule to continue this work through 2015. As such, the *Science Standards of Learning* were revised in 2010, followed by revisions to the *Science Curriculum Framework* the same year. The revised

standards and curriculum framework then prompted the need to review textbooks for correlation to the revised content.

Summary of Important Issues:

On March 24, 2011, the Board of Education authorized the Department to begin the process of the K-12 science textbooks review using a timeline approved by the Board. The Department of Education used the new textbook process approved by the Board in March 2011, to conduct the textbook review. In November 2011, the review committees received the science textbook samples along with K-12 *Science Standards of Learning* textbook correlations from publishers. Members of these committees conducted individual analyses of the materials prior to meeting with the full committee. In March 2012, the committees convened in Richmond to reach consensus on their reviews of the submitted materials. The consensus evaluations were shared with publishers, and publishers were given an opportunity to respond to the committees' reviews and recommendations. Requests by publishers for reconsideration were examined carefully by Department of Education staff members, as they prepared the list of proposed approved science textbooks for presentation to the Board.

Initially, 13 publishers expressed interest in submitting science textbooks for consideration. Two publishers did not pursue the process further. Eight publishers withdrew 23 science textbooks that did not correlate sufficiently to the *Science Standards of Learning*.

In all, 8 publishers are represented on the list of proposed recommended science textbooks, included as Attachment A. The list contains 56 proposed recommended science textbooks and includes the status of the Publisher's Certification and Agreement forms for each.

Following first review of the proposed textbooks, the Department of Education will conduct a 30-day public comment period, with the intent to bring to the Board a final list of proposed approved textbooks for K-12 science in September 2012.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

This responsibility can be absorbed by the agency's existing resources at this time. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this process, other services will be impacted.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon acceptance of the list of proposed K-12 science textbooks for first review by the Board of Education, a 30-day public comment period will be announced. The science textbooks submitted for review may be reviewed at any of the following eight sites around the state: The College of William and Mary, George Mason University, James Madison University, Radford University, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, Longwood University, Old Dominion University, and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Parham Road Campus. It is anticipated that the list of recommended K-12 science textbooks will be presented to the Board of Education for final review on September 27, 2012.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the attached list of proposed recommended K-12 science textbooks.

Proposed Science Textbooks Recommended for Approval
July 26, 2012 (Revised)

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
Kindergarten				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade K	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade K	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look (Digital Handbook 2012, Print 2011)	✓	
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); Kindergarten View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	
Grade 1				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 1	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade 1	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look	✓	
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); First Grade View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
Grade 2				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 2	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade 2	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look	✓	
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); Second Grade View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	
Grade 3				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 3	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade 3	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look	✓	
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); Third Grade View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	
Grade 4				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 4	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade 4	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look	✓	

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); Fourth Grade View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	
Grade 5				
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 5	✓	
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia (7-Year Student Edition Print/Online Bundle) Grade 5	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Science A Closer Look	✓	
	Discovery Education, Inc.	Discovery Education Science Techbook for Virginia; (Core Digital Path); Fifth Grade View (Adoption Length Subscription)	✓	
Grade 6				
	Achieve3000, Inc.	VA eScience3000 - 6th Grade	✓	
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 6	✓	
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia Student Edition Worktext Grade 6	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Virginia Grade 6 Interactive Science	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	VA Course 1 iScience	✓	

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
Life Science				
	Achieve3000, Inc.	VA eScience3000 - Life Science	✓	
	Delta Education LLC dba CPO Science	CPO Science Life Science Student Book set (includes Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)	✓	
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia Life Student Edition Worktext	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Virginia Interactive Science, Life Science	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	VA Life iScience	✓	
Physical Science				
	Achieve3000, Inc.	VA eScience3000 - Physical Science	✓	
	Delta Education LLC dba CPO Science	CPO Science Physical Science Student Book set (includes Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)	✓	
	Delta Education LLC dba CPO Science	Foundations of Physical Science 3rd Edition Student Book set (includes Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)	✓	
	Delta Education LLC	Delta Education Science for Grade 8	✓	
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Science Fusion Virginia Physical Student Edition Worktext	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Virginia Interactive Science, Physical Science	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	VA Physical iScience	✓	

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
Earth Science				
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Holt McDougal Earth Science 2013 Virginia Student Edition	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Pearson Earth Science, Virginia Edition	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Virginia Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe	✓	
Biology				
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Holt McDougal Biology Virginia Student Edition	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Miller Levine Biology, Virginia Edition	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Virginia Glencoe Biology	✓	
Chemistry				
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Zumdahl, World of Chemistry, 2nd Edition	✓	
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Holt McDougal Modern Chemistry Virginia Student Edition	✓	
	LAB-AIDS Inc.	A Natural Approach to Chemistry Student Book with Lab Investigations Manual	✓	
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	Pearson Chemistry, Virginia Edition	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Virginia Chemistry: Matter and Change	✓	

Course	Publisher	Title	Satisfactory Completion of Publisher's Certifications and Agreements	
			Yes	No
Physics				
	Delta Education LLC dba CPO Science	Physics a First Course 2nd Edition Student Book set (Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)	✓	
	Delta Education LLC dba CPO Science	Foundations of Physics 2nd Edition Student Book set (Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)	✓	
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Holt Physics Student Edition	✓	
	School Education Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	Virginia Physics: Principles and Problems Student Edition	✓	