SPS Board of Directors
Adopts New Science Materials for All Students
*New curricula will replace outdated materials*

SEATTLE – The Board of Directors for Seattle Public Schools has approved the adoption and purchase of new science instructional materials for kindergarten through grade 12 students throughout the district.

During its regular Board meeting on Wednesday, May 29, the Board voted to approve the adoption of the following curricula:

**Approved instructional materials for grades 9-12:**
- Biology A: **Carbon TIME**
- Biology B: District-developed Materials (Developed by Seattle Public School Teachers in Collaboration with University Partners)
- Chemistry A: District-developed Materials (Developed by SPS Teachers in Collaboration with University Partners)
- Physics A and B: **PEER Physics** (*Physics through Evidence: Empowerment through Reasoning*)

**Approved instructional materials for grades 6-8:**
- **Amplify Science**
  *The middle school adoption was approved with the following amendment, “After the 4th year of implementation the Research and Evaluation Department shall do a comprehensive analysis of outcomes across formative, summative, and interim assessments for K-12.”*

**Approved instructional materials for grades K-5:**
- **Amplify Science**
  *The elementary adoption was approved with the following amendment, “After the 4th year of implementation the Research and Evaluation Department shall do a...*
comprehensive analysis of outcomes across formative, summative, and interim assessments for K-12.

All instructional materials were recommended by three adoption committees, each focusing on a specified grade band: grades 1-5; grades 6-8; grades 9-12.

Approximately 90 individuals comprised the three adoption committees, which began their work in May 2018 and concluded in April of this year. The adoption committees were made up of SPS educators and students, parents, scientists, university professors and other volunteer members of the community.

“With this adoption, we’ll now have a common, rigorous, teacher-approved science curriculum for all our students,” said SPS Superintendent Denise Juneau. “The new instructional materials are aligned to the very latest educational standards and they provide the equitable access that our students deserve.”

The curricula are aligned to Washington State Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2013. The new materials replace the outdated materials that have been in use since the last SPS science adoptions: 1995 for elementary materials; 1999 for high school and 2002 for middle school.

“Today our real work begins,” said SPS Chief Academic Officer Diane DeBacker, who prior to joining SPS in early 2019 served as Kansas Commissioner of Education, and previously served as an elected school board member. “And that work is preparing our teachers to use these 21st century tools that will equip all of our students with equitable experience to prepare them to be contributing members of our global community.”

In addition to the intense committee and staff work that went into the adoption proceedings, the seven-member School Board of Directors devoted countless hours, several meetings and a great deal of discussion and research to the process.

“Casting the votes that establish curriculum for 53,000 students is a daunting proposition, as is considering the change in teaching with the technology-enhanced curricula and the controversy surrounding screen time and equity,” said School Board President Leslie Harris. “I personally grappled with this challenge, as did my Board colleagues. But, in the end, we’re very gratified to move forward.”

**Next Steps and Implementation**

With the approval of the new curricula, purchasing of the materials will soon take place. The new curricula for middle and high school science instruction will be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year. Due to the large number of elementary schools, implementation will be phased in over three years starting with the 2019-2020 school year, with a portion of schools receiving the new curriculum every year. Included in the adoption are funds earmarked for professional development to help teachers effectively use the new materials in their classrooms.

For more information about the May 29, 2019 School Board meeting, [click here](#).

For more information about the adoption process, [click here](#).

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