

## **K-8 Science Textbook Resource Review**

### **May 2023**

#### **Background:**

More than 20 educators, an administrator and parent from across Albemarle County Public Schools participated in a science textbook review. Representatives were invited from three textbook companies to present their resources with educators. Time was provided for questions and answers with each company. The last time ACPS adopted textbooks for students in grades K-8 was over 10 years ago. Educators were looking for a resource that provides students access to the curriculum and provides teachers with the ability to plan comprehensive lessons that encourage creative problem solving.

The committee would like to recommend Five Ponds because this resource:

- Aligns with the 2018 Science Virginia Curriculum Frameworks,
- Includes a student edition that contains captivating, full-color photos, illustrations, maps, graphs, timelines and charts that promote critical thinking and can be used to develop technology enhanced questions that mimic the newest version of the End of Year SOL assessment, and
- Provides educators with plans that allow students to apply inquiry skills and incorporates the nature of science essential concepts and understandings.

Attached is feedback from the committee for each resource reviewed.

## Science K-8 Textbook Adoption Spring 2023

Below are the averages of the scoring for each textbook from our Science K-8 textbook committee. The committee was comprised of elementary and middle school teachers (Megan Sullivan, Darci Palmer, Kahla Mosley, Layne Rickabaugh, Jonathan Whitehead, Sara Haas, Nicholas Clark, Anna McQuitty, Alex Salesin, Reva Allen, Christian Ewers, Karen Huffman, Abbie Phillips, Abigail Copley, Jessa Campbell, Madelyn Thomas, Lisa Boyce, Eliese Zawacki, Emily Anderson, Adryan Flores, Deanine Lilley), 1 parent (Sarah Delgado) and 1 administrator (Brad Handrich). The scoring ranged from 0 - 4 on each criteria, with 4 being the highest. Each text had a minimum of 13 independent reviewers.

### [Overview of Resource Review](#)

Textbook/ <b>Overall Average</b>	Educational Sustainability	Timelines	Quality	Readability	Reputation	Supplementa l	Recommende d	Positive Reviews	User Appeal	Sexually Explicit Content
<a href="#">Five Ponds/</a> <b>32.3</b>	3.69	3.72	3.83	3.44	3.67	3.44	3.5	3.44	3.61	none
<a href="#">Discovery Education/</a> <b>31.9</b>	3.53	3.92	3.53	3.92	3.53	3.53	3.15	3.31	3.38	none
<a href="#">Accelerated Learning (STEMScopes)/</a> <b>30.3</b>	3.5	3.72	3.19	3.39	3.17	3.61	3.33	3.17	3.56	none

The K-8 Science Textbook Committee recommends [Five Ponds](#) for purchase.