
State Approved Textbooks: Section D (Science)

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission (Textbook Commission) has prepared a final list of textbooks and instructional resources for Section D (Science). T. C. A. § 49-1-302(a)(9) states that it is the duty of the State Board of Education (State Board), and the State Board has the power to “prescribe the use of textbooks and other instructional materials, based on recommendations of the state textbook and instructional materials quality commission, for the various subjects taught or used in conjunction with the public schools.” T. C. A. § 49-6-2202(a) requires the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission prepare “a list of standard editions of textbooks and instructional materials for approval by the State Board of Education for the use in public schools of the state.” T. C. A. § 49-6-2201(n)(1)(a) also provides that the Commission, “through its chair, may appoint an advisory panel of expert teachers and other experts in each subject area or grade level to advise the commission on textbook and instructional materials selections.”

The chair of the Commission led the advisory panel application review between October 2023 and March 2024. During the March 2024 meeting, the Commission accepted applications to fill an advisory panel consisting of science educators. Their applications were scored by both the Commission and subject matter experts at the Tennessee Department of Education (Department). They also approved the scoring rubric for materials focusing on three (3) categories. First, publishers had to provide TN Standards Alignment guides, second, materials had to cover 100% of the state standards to align with Chapter 990 of the Public Acts of 2022, and third, materials had to meet 80% of the quality indicators outlined by the Commission.

The panelists conducted independent reviews between April 26 and June 28, 2024. These reports were disseminated to the Commission members during the July 30, 2024, meeting. Publishers who wished to appeal the initial decision made by the panelists had the opportunity to resubmit their revised texts to the Commission during August and September 2024.

Following first reading by the board in August 2024, the Commission met on October 2, 2024, to hear publishers’ appeals to the initial panel reviews and consider any public comment, either written or verbal. There were no publishers who wished to speak regarding their appeal, and the Commission received no public comments, either written or verbal. All publishers who did submit an appeal to the Commission during August and September 2024, upon re- review and scoring by expert panelists, were recommended for approval. On October 2, 2024, the Commission voted 9-1 to approve the recommended list for Section D (Science) textbooks and instructional materials to the State Board. This item presents the final science textbooks recommended by the Commission for approval by the State Board upon final reading.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Literacy/Postsecondary and Career, Teachers and Leaders, and Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by providing science materials for grades k-12.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Tennessee Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.