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**Textbook and Instructional Materials Waiver Request:**  
**Knox County Schools**  
**Solid Start Science K-2**  
**Carolina Curriculum: Smithsonian Science 3-5**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(9) charges the State Board to “prescribe the use of textbooks and other instructional materials, based on recommendations of the state textbook and instructional materials quality commission” by approving statewide, subject-based textbook adoption lists for districts to choose from. However, T.C.A. § 49-6-2206 authorizes the State Board to approve or deny waiver requests from local education agencies (LEAs) that wish to use textbooks or instructional materials that are not on the state-approved adoption list referenced above if the LEA demonstrates unique or unusual needs. The State Board’s Textbook and Instructional Materials Waivers Rule 0520-01-18 governs the process and procedures for LEAs requesting textbook and instructional materials waivers from the State Board.

Knox County Schools submitted a waiver application to use Solid Start for grades K-2 science and Carolina Curriculum: Smithsonian for grades 3-5 science textbooks and instructional materials.

Subject-matter experts at the Department of Education analyzed the proposed materials’ alignment with Tennessee Academic Standards. Based on their findings, other rule criteria, and multiple state law requirements, the State Board staff developed the final recommendation below.

**Connection to the Master Plan:**

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on Literacy and Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by providing approved science materials to support strong readers who will be prepared for postsecondary and career.

**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 additional financial impact on an LEA outside of their request.

**The Recommendation:**

Based on the process and criteria above, the State Board staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading and to be in effect until the next science textbook local adoption cycle (2033-2034 school year).