



# Our commitment to Texas

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Committed to Texas educators and students, Discovery Education is thankful to the commitment of the Texas Resource Review team in highlighting many of the high-quality components we intentionally built into our *Science Techbook for Texas* program. Discovery Education's *Science Techbook for Texas* is a brand-new comprehensive core curriculum program developed exclusively for the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and English Language Proficiency Standards. The design of the program motivates Texas students with exciting and engaging labs, interactives, videos, and hands-on activities that connect students to the world outside the classroom, awaken their curiosity, and drive active investigations.

## *Research-Backed, Award-Winning Science Programs*

To build the foundation of the curriculum, Discovery Education consulted with teachers across the state to learn what really matters for Texas students and teachers.

- Exciting content motivates students to ask questions and scaffolds acquisition of specific scientific ideas as students learn about the world in which they live.
- Seamless integration of digital, print, and kit components makes it easy for teachers to deliver impactful science instruction that meets the needs of their students without requiring them to prepare additional teaching materials.
- Engaging lessons employ a variety of instructional methods—hands-on, video, data sets, virtual labs, and more—to awaken students' curiosity about science phenomena.
- Accessibility and language support tools assist Texas students as they build knowledge and develop strong science practices.

Discovery Education is committed to responding to ongoing feedback to further enhance and meet the needs of Texas educators throughout the lifecycle of the *Science Techbook for Texas* product. As we continue to improve the user experience, we will be submitting updates for approval by the Texas Education Agency process.

The instructional design of Discovery Education *Science Techbook for Texas* is consistent across the entire Grade Kindergarten through Biology program. In the few cases that the middle school review panel indicated partially met criteria, both the elementary and Biology panel found the materials to meet the full breadth of the criteria. These same components are found in our middle school program, and we respectfully disagree with the middle school panel that the content and features of our program, partially address the following indicators.



*Indicator 3.2: Materials contain explanations and examples of science concepts, including grade-level misconceptions to support the teacher's subject knowledge and recognition of barriers to student conceptual development as outlined in the TEKS.*

Instructional supports to address common research-based student misconceptions are a key component of a well-developed science program. *Discovery Education Science Techbook for Texas*, not only includes misconceptions, relevant to the core scientific ideas found in each concept, but prioritizes placing the misconceptions at point of use for teachers in Explore lessons. They are found in critical places within the 5E learning cycle where teachers have the opportunity to address the misconception. Each misconception feature includes an explanation alongside a practical strategy to support students in overcoming barriers to developing their conceptual understanding. The final report includes evidence that the program contains the content required by this indicator. The review panel also indicates an expectation that misconceptions should be included in every lesson across a concept. Due to the 5E learning design of the program, *Discovery Education* believes that it would be instructionally inappropriate to include these features during the Engage, Explain and Elaborate lessons of the concept.

*Indicator 6.1: Materials include a range of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments to assess student learning in a variety of formats.*

The goal of assessment at *Discovery Education* is to empower teachers with the tools needed to gain a full picture of what their students know and can do, so they can provide targeted support to students throughout their learning journeys. *Science Techbook for Texas* provides formative and summative assessment opportunities, carefully embedded in the cycle of learning to help teachers guide their students to mastery of key learning targets and objectives. These assessment opportunities allow teachers and students to monitor progress and provide direct practice with STAAR-like item types across a variety of assessment formats. As a program, built for Texas, we will continue to update the program to meet the needs of Texas educators, including diagnostic assessments, for future submission to the Texas Education Agency as an update to the program.

*Indicator 7.1: Materials provide recommended targeted instruction and activities to scaffold learning for students who have not yet achieved grade-level mastery.*

*Discovery Education* is known for and proud to offer high quality multimedia content to support and engage student learning. We prioritize the need for teachers to have the extensive support for their daily instruction alongside rich and grade-appropriate content. Throughout each concept, in the middle school program, teacher notes for students who need additional supports are found in the Approaching Student learner callouts, at point of use. Additionally, a wealth of content, specific to key scientific ideas in the course, can be accessed using the search feature in the product. This functionality allows teachers to easily find and assign the content to individual or groups students who need additional support. *Discovery Education* is committed to improving this experience for teachers, for implementation of the program in 2024, as we continue to update our platform within the rules outlined by the Texas Education Agency.

*Indicator 7.3: Materials encourage strategic use of students' first language as a means to linguistic, affective, cognitive, and academic development in English.*

*Discovery Education Science Techbook for Texas* was designed for multilingual learners to be successful in mastery the required standards of the program. Across the 5E lessons of each concept, students are expected to speak, read, write or listen for the purpose of building their understanding of key ideas. Numerous lessons



within the concept include detailed teacher support for how they can facilitate and encourage use of students' first language, alongside acquisition of English language. These features exceed the expectation of the indicator by providing more than one suggestion for the teacher, but rather, provide four scaffolded strategies that can be employed based on the language proficiency level of the students in the classroom. Additionally, the Discovery Education platform is designed to integrate with Google translate tools, which allows the content to be translated to nearly 90 additional languages. Knowing the specific need for Spanish materials to be easily accessed by teachers and students in Texas, Discovery Education plans to make Spanish translated content across the entire program, more readily available, for implementation of the program in 2024.