Conceptual Academy Biology—Texas Edition
Publisher Response

We would like to thank the TRR panel reviewers for their extensive and insightful reviews. This TRR review process directed us toward material improvements in the area of teacher and student support. For this we are most appreciative.

For context, we would like to express two concerns.

Foremost, the TRR rubrics by which we were judged did not include an assessment on how well we 1) present the concepts of biology 2) employ best practices for learning science from cognitive science research, 3) nurture curiosity, excitement, delight, and a love of learning within the students, and 4) enhance the professional development of the instructor. For high quality instructional materials, we believe these metrics to be essential.

We are excited to learn that these TRR rubrics are now being replaced by a new set of rubrics evolving from the action of HB 1605. Based upon recent comments from the commissioner and the SBOE, we are hopeful the above four and related metrics will be included. We will embrace these higher quality rubrics and adjust as needed to meet the current and future needs of Texas teachers, students, parents and caregivers.

Secondly, we found the scoring system to be misleading. A single Partial Meet (PM) on a rubric knocks the points earned from 100% to 50%, which is the same as a rating of mostly Does Not Meet (DNM). We believe a more accurate approach would count each Meet (M) as 2 points, each PM as 1 point, and each DNM as 0 points. Under such a system, our rubric 8 score would rise from 68% to 90% and our rubric 3 score would rise from 75% to 93%.

More importantly, please understand these reviews to be a snapshot in time. We are strong advocates for formative assessment, both within the living curricula we write and for ourselves. Although the 2023 TRR process is over, we now have valuable feedback to take our teacher and student support to an even higher level.

Thank you for these considerations. We look forward to working with you.

Good chemistry,
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