



Publisher Response | Accelerate Learning Inc.

Biology

After years of success providing the most widely used science materials in the state of Texas, STEMscopes Science is proud to provide Texas with the newly developed curriculum created directly from the new TEKS. We have always prided ourselves in being partners with teachers, campuses, and districts across Texas, and helping implement the new TEKS in the Fall of 2024 will be no different. We have accomplished great things in our partnership over the years. Our research studies show that using STEMscopes Science results in more students meeting or exceeding state assessment science proficiency benchmarks. Having access to high-quality K-12 curriculum helps improve U.S. students' science proficiency levels and addresses our country's critical need for students to pursue careers in STEM.

We are honored to have been reviewed by the Texas Resource Review committee and to be given outstanding ratings in all areas. Not only were we recognized as being 100% aligned to both the Science Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the Texas English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), but we were also recognized as fully meeting all requirements in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9.

While we are ecstatic about those 100% ratings, we at STEMscopes will never settle for less than 100% in all sections. The digital nature of STEMscopes Science allows us the opportunity to enhance our program as needs arise, and we are planning to do that to address the one bullet in section 8 where we were not given full credit. While we were given partial credit for this indicator, we are committed to working with Texas teachers to help improve our product.

The indicator below was scored as “Meets” in two of the three bullets in the review.

8.3 Materials provide implementation guidance to meet variability in program design and scheduling.

- Materials support scheduling considerations and include guidance and recommendations on required time for lessons and activities.
- Materials guide strategic implementation without disrupting the sequence of content that must be taught in a specific order following a developmental progression.
- Materials designated for the course are flexible and can be completed in one school year.

The review identified weakness in bullet two stating “The materials provide a “Suggested Scope Order,” which reveals that some units in the material require prior knowledge that has not yet been taught.”

The evidence provided for Biology was consistent with the evidence provided in our other grade levels and courses that was deemed to fully meet the requirements of the indicator.

Our materials provide a Suggested Scope Order for Biology. However, our curriculum is designed to be flexible allowing teachers to adjust the order and timing of scopes to meet the needs of students and/or campus/district directives and initiatives.

Each scope, or unit of learning, is set up to follow the 5E + IA lesson cycle. The content in the Engage, Explore, Explain and Evaluate sections provide the content and activities that fully teach and assess the standard(s) covered in a scope. The Elaborate section is designed to provide opportunities for applying content in new ways.

The examples cited by the reviewers are found in the Elaborate section of two scopes, DNA and DNA Technology. Both activities are from an Engineering Connection activity and are designed to have students apply the content learned in new ways. In both examples the activity allows the student to investigate the content and present what they need to design a

plan to address the challenge posed. This allows the students to show what they have learned during that particular scope as well as identify additional information they may need to further design a solution. These activities also help lay the groundwork for additional learning in future scopes.

Given the nature of the 5E + IA lesson cycle and how content is presented, the materials in STEMscopes Biology are sequenced to support developmental progression and provide a strong foundational knowledge for students.

STEMscopes Science is proud to have partnered with Texas teachers for over ten years, and we are committed to providing a well-rounded, high-quality science curriculum that supports both teachers and students. Our constructivist approach to science education drives our product and is seen in the 5E + IA learning model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate, Intervention, and Acceleration.) Our product is designed to engage students with exciting phenomena while using scientific and engineering practices. As students use hands-on learning, they can experience real-world science content while connecting it with recurring themes and concepts to explain the world around them. We are excited to bring our newly updated product to classrooms in Texas and look forward to continuing our partnership with Texas teachers.