



Publisher Response | Accelerate Learning Inc.

Fourth Grade

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 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 and 7.

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 to enhance our program as needs arise, and we plan to do that to address the one bullet in section 8 where full credit was not given. 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.

8.1 Materials include year-long plans with practice and review opportunities that support instruction.

- Materials are accompanied by a TEKS-aligned scope and sequence outlining the order in which knowledge and skills are taught and built in the course materials.
- Materials provide clear teacher guidance for facilitating student-made connections across core concepts, scientific and engineering practices, and recurring themes and concepts.
- Materials provide review and practice of knowledge and skills spiraled throughout the year to support mastery and retention

The review identified weakness in bullet three stating “While this implies that materials provide review and practice of knowledge and skills throughout the year, there is limited guidance on spiraling to support mastery and retention.”

The evidence provided for this indicator in Grades K-5 was consistent with the evidence provided in our other grade levels and courses and deemed to fully meet the indicator's requirements in the other courses. For this indicator we highlighted specific elements to incorporate topics in a spiral manner where the teacher can reinforce the content learned throughout the year. With the suggested elements we identify the topics without scripting what to focus on so that teachers can meet all students' needs based on identified areas of development. We recognize that all classrooms bring different challenges and needs of students and empower the teachers by providing suggestions without scripting precise methods to allow for the flexibility needed as the students' needs change.

The review team was looking for a specific element in our scopes that provides a targeted spiral review. As STEMscopes has always done, we will work with focus groups of teachers to create an element that meets their needs to be available in the product by implementation in the Fall of 2024.

The indicator below was scored as “Yes” for three of the four bullets:

9.2 Materials are intentionally designed to engage and support student learning with the integration of digital technology

- Materials integrate digital technology and tools that support student learning and engagement.
- Materials integrate digital technology in ways that support student engagement with the science and engineering practices, recurring themes and concepts, and grade-level content.
- Materials integrate digital technology that provides opportunities for teachers and/or students to collaborate.
- Materials integrate digital technology that is compatible with a variety of learning management systems.

The review identified weakness in bullet three stating “While the materials integrate digital technology in the form of learning games, these are not designed to be completed by interacting or collaborating with others.”

The evidence for this indicator in Grades K-5 was consistent with the evidence provided in our other grade levels and courses deemed to meet the indicator's requirements fully. However, the review for this grade level indicates that reviewers expected digital components such as discussion boards or video conferencing tools. The product provides teachers with various ways to give feedback on student digital assignments. We have technical enhancements in our product roadmap that will allow more collaboration between students and teachers, including the ability for students and teachers to message each other. We are also researching the ability for students to collaborate on digital assignments.

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.