



Publisher Response | Accelerate Learning Inc.

Eighth 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 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, 8, 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.

7.1 Materials include guidance, scaffolds, supports, and extensions that maximize student learning potential.

- Materials provide recommended targeted instruction and activities to scaffold learning for students who have not yet achieved grade-level mastery.
- Materials provide enrichment activities for all levels of learners.
- Materials provide scaffolds and guidance for just-in-time learning acceleration for all students

The review identified weakness in bullet three. The report states that the Intervention section can be used as "just in time" learning however, reviewers felt the materials lacked guidance for teachers if students struggle despite directions.

The evidence provided for this indicator in Grades 6-8 was consistent with the evidence provided in our other grade levels and courses that was deemed to fully meet the requirements of the indicator. The evidence cited included the sections in the material you will find guidance for teachers to help support students who struggle. These include:

- Engage – Scope Phenomena, APK and Pre-Assessment
- Explore – Hands-on Explore and Virtual Explore
- Explain – STEMscopedia and Picture Vocabulary
- Elaborate – Science Connection, Science Today, and Reading Science
- Evaluate – CER and Scope Assessment

The guidance provided is designed to support all students who may struggle with the content. Within the facilitation we provide questions and possible answers to help teachers guide students as they respond to question prompts. All guidance is designed to allow flexibility as needed to support all learners given challenges will vary from class to class.

To address this area we will work with focus groups of teachers and provide additional scaffolds and guidance in activities to support all 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.