



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Carrie Kamm, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

DATE: March 9, 2016

RE: K-5 Science Curriculum Program Update Order for Next Generation Science Standards/Illinois Science Learning Standards transition

The Illinois Learning Standards in Science became effective in February 2014 and are based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The standards serve as a guide for what students should know and be able to by the end of each grade level. The full implementation of the standards is set for the 2016-2017 school year. To prepare for this transition, our K-5 teachers have participated in professional learning on the architecture of NGSS standards, using Science Notebooks to support student thinking, and the place of argument (claim, evidence, and reasoning) in the NGSS.

To insure that our K-5 science program meets the new Illinois Learning Standards in Science, I recommend that we update our current FOSS (Full Option Science System) materials and purchase the NGSS edition of the instructional kits. Through discussion with our district science consultant, I do not recommend reviewing other programs at this time. The market place is still in flux as materials are adapted and aligned to the NGSS. Given that our teachers are familiar with the FOSS program, our professional learning efforts will focus on understanding the NGSS and integrating CCSS ELA writing standards and science through the use of Science Notebooks. Please see the attached quote for updating our K-5 science materials for your review.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carrie Kamm