

**New Fairfield Public Schools
Textbook Selection Information**

Course: AP Computer Science Principles
Grades: 11-12
Title: New Perspectives in Computer Concepts, 2018 Enhanced Edition
Author(s): June Jamrich Parsons
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Date: 2018

The following criteria were adopted and/or adapted from the American Library Association Workbook for Selection Policy Writing.

1. Learning resources shall support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the state and the district and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses.

The selected textbook is designed to give the student a wide diversity of background information and skills that the student of the 21st Century is expected to possess. The book addresses some of the “social, political, economic, and legal issues” that have come to be a necessity when dealing with the constantly changing digital marketplace.

The knowledge that students have garnered by using cell phones, laptops, personal audio players, and other advancing digital technology has started to prepare them, but without a true understanding of the supporting technology, it is just superficial.

The book goes into depth with sufficient background to enable a wide cross-section of students with interests in different fields to understand the technologies and thus to apply them appropriately in whatever fields the student ends up choosing.

2. Learning resources shall be chosen to enrich and support the curriculum and the personal needs of users.

The AP Computer Science Principles course is, according to the College Board, about “The fundamentals of computing, including problem solving, working with data, understanding the Internet, cybersecurity, and programming.” The Goals are: “Broadening your understanding of computer science for use in a diversity of majors and careers.”

This book aligns specifically for the AP Computer Science Principles course. It covers an appropriately wide range of topics (Units are “Digital Content, Digital Devices, Networks, The Web, Social Media, Software, Digital Security, The ICT (Information and

Computer Technologies) Industry, Information Systems, Databases, Programming, along with an Appendix directed toward the Python programming language.

The units of the book match up well with the stated goals of the course with a diversity of material and depth of content to address each of the required topics.

3. Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in format, visual quality, and presentation.

This book has an engaging design with a large number of pertinent illustrations. The important points, headings, examples, and diagrams are printed in color. There is sufficient white space on the page to avoid the look of dense pages of text, as typical computer science books tend to be.

4. Learning resources shall be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of the students for whom the materials are selected.

To address learning styles, this text contains various ways of presenting information, including straight text, graphs, links to videos, images, to-do examples, and other means of learning. The text, while covering rigorous material in alignment with AP, is written in an accessible, straight-forward language. This text is one of two recommended by the College Board for its alignment to the AP Computer Science Principles curriculum.

5. Learning resources shall promote an appreciation of cultural diversity.

In numerous pictures throughout the book, where people, and especially students, are pictured, there is a wide variety of races and genders present. In one particular picture of a workplace and 'the boss', the boss is female. The examples, questions, and problems are written in a gender-, racial-, and culture-neutral manner.

6. The publisher provides appropriate support materials.

Cengage provides an instructor's manual, solution files for all of the Quick Checks, Lab Assignments, Interactive Summaries, Interactive Situation Questions, Issue Try It!, and Information Tools Try It!, Powerpoints (can be altered by the instructor), Test banks and testing software, and engagement trackers (monitors student time on task and progress). Ebooks also available for students who might need them.

7. Price per book and the number needed

The publisher's price for print is \$142.50. A classroom set of 20 copies is needed.