



Executive Summary
Board of Education Meeting

DATE: April 4, 2018
TOPIC: Middle School Science Curricular Adoption
PREPARED BY: David Russo

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Recommended Action:

Action:

Discussion:

Information:

Purpose:

The Board of Education approves all curricular adoptions.

Background:

The Middle School Science Department and Administration recommend adoption of the iScience ©2017 program published by McGraw-Hill Education for grades 6-8. The chart provided outlines the number of copies desired with associated costs. This recommendation replaces the Holt/Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt ©2007 program.

Rationale:

The Middle School Science Department was impressed with the iScience program and felt that it was the best option to meet the needs of the District's student population. The iScience program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and contains a variety of instructional materials to build a foundation of conceptual understanding. The program is organized into separate earth, life, and physical science titles; which is congruent with the sequence of middle school courses. There is embedded reading and math support with tools to assist students to become more proficient in gathering ideas from informational text.

Students can take knowledge gained and apply it to a wide variety of experiments and projects. Hands-on science experiences vary from brief, 15-20-minute experiments to long-range projects interwoven throughout entire units of study. Other noteworthy features of the iScience program included numerous electronic resources. These ranged from a collection of science videos and images to tools allowing students to manipulate variables when conducting experiments. The program logically organizes teaching resources electronically to aid staff in finding materials to differentiate the experience to meet students' needs. District technology personnel ensured compatibility with existing computer hardware by vetting online resources. Due to the extensive

collection and perceived quality of electronic materials, the District will purchase a classroom set of hardcopy materials and an electronic subscription for every student.

Selection Method:

The Middle School Science Department has been meeting since October to arrive at this recommendation. Through a process of review of sample materials, trial of lessons, departmental discussion and usage of a consistent multi-point rubric, the department selected iScience as the program members believe is the one best suited to meet the needs of the District's student population.

Fiscal Impact:

6-Year Subscription iScience

Title	Copies Desired	Unit Cost	Product Subtotal
Earth & Space iScience Student Edition	33	\$81.99	\$2,705.67
Earth & Space iScience EStudent Edition	155	\$76.59	\$11,871.45
Earth & Space iScience ETeacher Edition	4	\$141.42	Free Materials
Life iScience Student Edition	33	\$81.99	\$2,705.67
Life iScience EStudent Edition	155	\$76.59	\$11,871.45
Life iScience ETeacher Edition	4	\$141.42	Free Materials
Physical iScience Student Edition	33	\$81.99	\$2,705.67
Physical iScience EStudent Edition	158	\$76.59	\$12,101.22
Physical iScience ETeacher Edition	4	\$141.42	Free Materials
Shipping and Handling			\$476.98
Total			\$44,438.11

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve adoption of the iScience program for grades 6-8 in the amount of \$44,438.11.