

**New Fairfield Public Schools
Textbook Selection Information**

Title: Discover Kids

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Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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.**

Discover Kids is in inquiry-based program that is closely aligned to the Connecticut Social Studies Framework. Each lesson and unit has compelling questions that offer an inquiry path very similar to the format contained in the framework.

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

Students have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities where they process information matched to the standards. There are individual magazines for each topic where students explore engaging content and discover facts through highly engaging nonfiction articles. This format also supports the current use of Time For Kids magazines, so teachers and students are familiar with these structures. Teachers will use a Teacher's Guide to facilitate and support curriculum development and lesson design.

- 3. Learning resources shall meet high standards of quality in:**

Both the Teacher's Guide and student magazines offer incredible visuals, interactive maps, hotspots, interactive diagrams, and additional opportunities to extend learning. The offline and online resources are high quality.

- 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.**

The K-2 teachers selected this resource primarily because it was well matched to the developmental needs of students. The hands-on and digital access to immersive content will engage students and easily meet instructional goals in social studies and literacy. Access and equity features support reading and language development for all learners. In particular, there are scaffolds and supports to assist students at various proficiency levels that provide 'substantial,' 'moderate' and 'lighter' support, gradually shifting struggling learners to more advanced language use.

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

Cultural diversity is addressed through individual magazines and is addressed through compelling questions following the social studies framework.

6. Learning resources shall be designed to provide a background of information that will motivate students and staff to examine their own attitudes and behavior; to comprehend their duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges as participating citizens in our society; and to make informed judgments in their daily lives.

The Connecticut Social Studies Framework and Discover Kids are based on the Dimensions of Inquiry. These standards clearly define efforts for students to evaluate sources, make judgments, and take informed action in their community. The resource in particular describes how students can be good citizens, while providing concrete examples.

7. The publisher provides appropriate support materials.

The student magazines provide streamline topic-based informational text readings to keep students focused on specific concepts and standards. The bite-sized content is appropriate for students in grades K-2 because it allows students to build on their own knowledge while also building their personal libraries. The digital access supports lesson development, along with the teacher guide.

8. Price per book and number needed

The anticipated cost for students in grades K-2 is \$18,329.64 for six years. This includes renewable classroom consumables for students¹ and digital access to the online platform and digital tools for teachers. Based on student enrollment estimates for next year for 439 students, this would cost approximately \$41 per student for a six-year investment, or \$6.83 per student annually. The investment also includes 26 teacher editions.

Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jason McKinnon and the K-5 social studies committee

¹ The consumables are in the form of vibrant magazines that students can write in and highlight information. Students will then get to keep these magazines and use as non-fiction reading resources.