



*North Marion, learning together to cultivate lifelong growth*

To: Dr. Bill Rhoades, Superintendent  
From: Desiree Kiesel, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Date: May 13, 2024  
Re: Adoption of the Materials Recommendations for Science

---

### **Background Information:**

In accordance with North Marion Board Policy IIA-AR(1), the North Marion School District Science Task Force was formed in fall of 2023, and has been working diligently to identify science materials for the 2024-2025 school year. The team was made up of the following members:

- |                     |                   |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| ● Ashlee Auerbach   | ● Madison Klukun  | Administrative Support |
| ● Jamie Bohall      | ● Breanne Knudson | ● Charyl Dyer          |
| ● Darla Boswell     | ● Chelsea Landry  | ● Stacy Erickson       |
| ● Charyl Dyer       | ● Briana Louis    | ● DeAnn Jenness        |
| ● Jana Giles        | ● Casey Meador    | ● Kimberly Jordan      |
| ● Grant Hartenstein | ● Irma Patton     | ● Irma Patton          |
| ● Mark John         | ● Mike Robinson   | ● Bill Rhoades         |
| ● Craig Johnston    | ● Rachael Wilcox  | ● David Sheldon        |

The process and review of materials is designed in alignment with the North Marion Board Policy IIA-AR(1):

### **Step 1 - Gather feedback**

Families were sent a survey in the early fall and again during fall and spring conferences to provide feedback on our current science teaching and learning framework and recommendations to the district to consider during our materials search process.

### **Step 2 - Assemble a team to review materials.**

In our above-mentioned communication, families had an opportunity to indicate interest in serving on the review team. We received no requests to participate. In addition, building leaders requested participation through their site councils and other family involvement committees. Unfortunately, these efforts did not yield any additional names for our team.

The remaining members of our team included representation from each of the buildings and every grade level. In addition, instructional team members who had specific expertise in our special populations—including students experiencing disabilities, gifted learners, and emerging bilinguals.

### **Step 3 - Identifying What we are Looking for**

Prior to reviewing materials the Science Taskforce analyzed our current Science Teaching and Learning Framework, included:

- Review our strategic plan
- Review of the Next Generation Science Standards, Cross Cutting Concepts and Scientific and Engineering Practices
- Review of current student data

This work also resulted in a comprehensive [NMSD Science Instructional Framework](#) which can be used to guide science instruction moving forward.

From there, we designed a comprehensive rubric that reflected these various needs, aligning it to the State Materials Rubrics for Science.

- [NMSD Science Rubric w/Guiding Questions](#)
- [NMSD Science Rubric Note Taker](#)

### **Step 4 - Identifying Materials to Pilot and Conducting a Pilot**

On November 30th, representatives from our Science Taskforce attended a materials caravan at the NWRES, heard presentations from publishers, and had an opportunity to review the materials. Building-level teams then reviewed all grade-level appropriate materials and narrowed them down to two publishers for pilots per building. A list of piloted materials is provided below.

All piloted materials were out for review in the buildings during school events and during our spring Parent-Teacher conferences. In addition, information and links to publisher websites were shared with families on January 23rd in the Teaching and Learning Newsletter and on April 23 via Parent Square. Both communications were posted to our website. ([Spring Materials Adoption Update](#))

After the pilots were conducted, participating staff completed the rubric and provided feedback on the program. In addition, students were given an opportunity to provide feedback using a survey.

Staff Feedback Forms

- [NMSD Science Rubric w/Guiding Questions](#)
- [NMSD Science Rubric Note Taker](#)

#### Student Feedback Forms

- [Student SCI Pilot Feedback - Elementary](#)
- [Student Science Pilot Feedback-Secondary](#)

This data was then brought to the building-level team and the director of Teaching and Learning to review the results and finalize their recommendations for forwarding to the cabinet and board.

#### **Step 5 - Report to the Board**

After the information on the Science Instructional Materials Adoption has been presented, we recommend that the Board take the following actions:

- [Approve the material recommendations of Amplify Science for use at North Marion Primary School.](#)
- [Approve the material recommendations of HMH Into Science for use at North Marion Intermediate School](#)
- [Approve the material recommendations of STILE Science for use at North Marion Middle School.](#)
- Approve the material recommendations for the following for use at North Marion High School
  - [9th Grade Science - STEMScopes](#)
  - [Biology, Human Anatomy, Physics and Chemistry - McGraw Hill](#)