

Tracy Area Public Schools

District #417



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TO: Elementary Staff
From: Scott

RE: CURRICULUM REVIEW / QUESTIONS / CRITERIA

Please use the following questions and your corresponding responses as guide to carefully articulate the strengths and areas of concern in the curriculum series that will be reviewed, studied, and possibly piloted. This is just one important aspect or component in moving towards a final decision and selection of a series that is based on sound educational judgment. Please keep in mind the most important overall factor in the decision-making process is how each series effects and affects the learning potential of the students that attend Tracy Area Elementary School. Does the series address different learning styles, cultures, gender, and other mechanisms associated with learning opportunities for students? Can the curriculum material under review, if implemented, improve student outcomes? Does it connect with state standards, district expectations, K-12 articulation, NWEA, and other probable factors important to the selection process? Each of these questions will be discussed at regular intervals during the adoption process and each committee member should complete a curriculum review for each series that is studied. The responses to this criteria worksheet will serve as both a resource to review committee member findings and will also serve as a point of reference in terms of group discussions.

As you respond to these questions with comments that relate to your experiences as each curriculum is reviewed, be sure to date each entry, as it is possible that some of your initial opinions, justifications, or answers could change as you learn more about the series by conversing with colleagues or with publisher sales representatives.

1. Is the copyright recent?
2. Is the indexing suitable, useful, helpful, etc.?
3. Are the curriculum materials well edited?
4. Is the book physically well constructed? What is your opinion in terms of projected longevity of the text, other associated materials?

“Education as a Lifestyle”

5. Is the general format of the book well designed? Well organized?

6. Are the illustrations, graphs, diagrams, and other pictorial material coordinated with the contents of the text?

7. Is the vocabulary used in the text suitable and developmentally appropriate for the age / or grade level with which it is designed for use? Are vocabulary words highlighted? Defined? Is there a glossary?

8. Is the grade placement of the projected / intended concepts and topics appropriate?

9. Is there suitable review of the materials that were “learned” the previous year?

10. Is the text designed to assist in the diagnosis of the problems students might incur? Is there an evaluation process that helps guide the diagnosis? Are there options for making the appropriate interventions?

11. Is the text designed to respond to the needs of a variety of learners, (e.g. high, average, below grade level, Title I, ESL, Special Education, etc.

12. Is the content of the text, both print and pictures, in keeping with the interest level of the group of students with which it is intended to be used?
13. Is the content of the text in keeping with the curriculum objectives of the school? District? State?
14. Is the content depicted and described valid? Comprehensive?
15. Is the scholarship of the text sound?
16. Is the author(s) recognized as an authority on this subject?
17. Is the text written in such a way that it treats all races, ethnic groups, and persons of different creeds with respect and dignity?

18. Is the teacher's manual helpful to the teacher and for instruction? Useful? Appropriate? Easy to use? This is an important question because in most cases it will be nearly impossible to have smooth transition to a new curriculum series if the issue of the teacher "friendly" manuals and materials are a major concern.
19. Is the text published by a recognized publisher? Do you have previous experiences with this publisher? Was that experience positive or negative? Why?
20. Is the text within the budget available and / or is there a means to adjust the budget to respond to the value of the curriculum series?
21. Is the technology connection of the curriculum being reviewed supportive of the programs and applications currently used at the school site?

22. List any additional comments that relate to this overall curriculum review of new materials in a series. Be specific in your comments and be prepared to apply justification and reason to your responses regarding the questions posed on this worksheet.