2011 Science, Phys Ed and Health Ed Summer Review Institute

# Teachers' Textbook Appraisal

Local school boards may also want to consider other criteria to meet the needs of their student population.
All teachers that reviewed this material are highly qualified in their specific field in education.

Textbook Title: Science: A Closer Look
Publisher: Macmillan – McGraw Hill
Grade Level: 4th Grade
ISBN No. Teacher Edition: 9780022886479
ISBN No. Student Edition: 9780021150472

## TEXTBOOK ORGANIZATION

- Unit planners are helpful to see the organization of each unit.
- Center activities are part of the lessons.
- Science facts section activates prior knowledge as well as activates background knowledge which is essential for scaffolding instruction for ELL and SPED students.
- "Ask the expert section" is an excellent way to foster school and community relationships.
- Cross curricular connections (social studies, art, etc.) are present in each chapter.
- Teaching strategies are embedded within each lesson.
- KWL charts as well as other graphic organizers are provided for instructional support.
- Lessons allow for guided practice as well as individual inquiry, which help teachers to provide a strong foundation on a topic but still allows for differentiation of instruction.

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

- Formative assessments are embedded throughout each lesson.
- Performance and summative assessments are included at the end of each unit.
- Assessments are comprehensive and age appropriate.
- There are grading rubrics embedded in the lessons as well as at the conclusion of the unit that help the students to understand how their work is evaluated.

## ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- ELL support is included at multiple language proficiency levels (beginning, intermediate and advanced).
- There are multiple opportunities for differentiated instruction.
- The text clarifies and repeats major concepts. "Big Ideas" are spiraled throughout the course of the book.
- The use of visuals is highly engaging for ELLs and early readers and increases student engagement.

## TEACHER COMMENTS

- "This text includes varied reading selections that support cross cultural learning." S.L.B. Bellehaven, Instructional Coach
- "The differentiated instruction for ELLs is a wonderful resource, especially for beginning teachers." S.A., E. Stapleton Elementary, ESL Coorindator
- "This text introduces vocabulary in a concise and comprehensive manner and makes science content understandable through words and visuals." A.B., MacArthur Elementary School, Title I Teacher