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: 3rd Grade
ISBN No. Teacher Edition: 9780022886462
ISBN No. Student Edition: 9780021150465

## 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

- "There is a concise, color coded layout for efficient instructional planning." S.L.B. Bellehaven, Instructional Coach
- "The Careers in Science section helps students to understand how tasks that they enjoy doing in school are utilized in certain science careers." S.A., E. Stapleton Elementary, ESL Coorindator
- "Snippets of information are provided through a feature aptly called 'Science Background'. This feature allows students to make practical science applications." A.B., MacArthur Elementary School, Title I Teacher