



DATE: May 17, 2023

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Carmen Ghysels, Superintendent Chief Learning Officer

SUBJECT: First Read of Adoption of Middle School Full Option Science System (FOSS) Instructional Materials

PRESENTED BY: Kerstin Kramer, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

ACTION REQUESTED

First Read of Adoption of Middle School Full Option Science System (FOSS) Instructional Materials

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Middle Schools last adopted curriculum has a copyright date of 2009. This older curriculum was developed before the transition to the Next Generation Science Standards, adopted in California in 2013. The Middle School science department has piloted four curricula since the 2019-2020 school year. When looking at curricula, rigor, standards alignment, student access, and engagement were held up. A thorough process was implemented to ensure that the chosen curriculum fit the needs of the students and teachers. All middle school teachers participated in the pilot process.

As a result of the pilot process, the following curriculum is recommended:

Full Option Science System (FOSS) Next Generation for California

The curriculum is domain-specific, with Earth, Life, and Physical sciences presented in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The course aligns with the three dimensions of California's adopted Next Generation Science Standards, Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Cross Cutting Concepts by applying research-based practices that engage and challenge students in solving problems based on real-world phenomena. One component that stands out is the number of hands-on activities that engage middle school students as scientists.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Lottery

PREPARED BY: Mindi Brenner for Kerstin Kramer, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Attachment: Instructions - Public Display of Instructional Materials FOSS Link