Chapter 112. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science

Subchapter B. Middle School

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter B issued under the Texas Education Code, §7.102(c)(4) and §28.002, unless otherwise noted.

§112.25. Implementation of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science, Middle School, Adopted 2021.

(a) The provisions of §§112.26-112.28 of this subchapter shall be implemented by school districts.

(b) No later than July 31, 2023, the commissioner of education shall determine whether instructional materials funding has been made available to Texas public schools for materials that cover the essential knowledge and skills for science as adopted in §§112.26-112.28 of this subchapter.

(c) If the commissioner makes the determination that instructional materials funding has been made available under subsection (b) of this section, §§112.26-112.28 of this subchapter shall be implemented beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and apply to the 2024-2025 and subsequent school years.

(d) If the commissioner does not make the determination that instructional materials funding has been made available under subsection (b) of this section, the commissioner shall determine no later than July 31 of each subsequent school year whether instructional materials funding has been made available. If the commissioner determines that instructional materials funding has been made available, the commissioner shall notify the State Board of Education and school districts that §§112.26-112.28 of this subchapter shall be implemented for the following school year.

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(a) Introduction.

(1) In Grades 6 through 8 Science, content is organized into recurring strands. The concepts within each grade level build on prior knowledge, prepare students for the next grade level, and establish a foundation for high school courses. In Grade 6, the following concepts will be addressed in each strand.

(A) Scientific and engineering practices. Scientific inquiry is the planned and deliberate investigation of the natural world using scientific and engineering practices. Scientific methods of investigation are descriptive, correlative, comparative, or experimental. The method chosen should be appropriate to the grade level and question being asked. Student learning for different types of investigations inctiofs nvescritihe i1ihestgaiinsd. d ic answer questions, and explain phenomena using appropriate tools and models.

(ii) Engineering practices. Students identify problems and design solutions using appropriate tools and models.

(B)

modeled. These patterns help to make predictions that can be scientifically tested. Models have limitations but provide a tool for understanding the ideas presented. Students analyze a system in terms of its components and how these components relate to each other, to the whole, and to the external environment.

(6) Statements containing the word "including" reference content that must be mastered, while those containing the phrase "such as" are intended as possible illustrative examples.

(b) Knowledge and skills.

(1) Scientific and engineering practices. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, asks questions, identifies problems, and plans and safely conducts classroom, laboratory, and field investigations to answer questions, explain phenomena, or design solutions using appropriate tools and models. The student is expected to:

(A) ask questions and define problems based on observations or information from text, phenomena, models, or investigations;

(B) use scientific practices to plan and conduct descriptive, comparative, and experimental investigations and use engineering practices to design solutions to problems;

(C) use appropriate safety equipment and practices during laboratory, classroom, and field investigations as outlined in Texas Education Agency-approved safety standards;

(D) use appropriate tools such as graduated cylinders, metric rulers, periodic tables, balances, b6.3 (Dxs(ab)-4.772 0 6 (er)-3. (a(m)-1.4 (et)(,)-2.5 6(;(e)e5 (a)5.9-1.144 TD[ )6.4 (b6.3 (Dx5.772 09(et)(,)-

biodiversity impacts an ecosystem's sustainability. Students gain an understanding of the

methods of investigation are descriptive, correlative, comparative, or experimental. The method chosen should be appropriate to the grade level and question being asked. Student learning for different types of investigations includes descriptive investigations, which have no hypothesis that tentatively answers the research question and involve collecting data and recording observations without making comparisons; correlative and comparative investigations, which have a hypothesis that predicts a relationship and involve collecting data, measuring variables relevant to the hypothesis that are

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(3) Scientific and engineering practices. The student develops evidence-based explanations and communicates findings, conclusions, and proposed solutions. The student is expected to:

(A) develop explanations and propose solutions supported by data and models and consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories;

(B) communicate explanations and solutions individually and collaboratively in a variety of settings and formats; and

(C) engage respectfully in scientific argumentation using applied scientific explanations and empirical evidence.

(4) Scientific and engineering practices. The student knows the contributions of scientists and recognizes the importance of scientific research and innovation on society. The student is expected to:

(A) relate the impact of past and current research on scientific thought and society, including the process of science, cost-benefit analysis, and contributions of diverse scientists as related to the content;

(B) make informed decisions by evaluating evidence from multiple appropriate sources to assess the credibility, accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and methods used; and

(C) research and explore resources such as museums, libraries, professional organizations, private companies, online platforms, and mentors employed in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field to investigate STEM careers.

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student understands that recurring themes and concepts provide a framework for making connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and apply patterns to understand and connect scientific phenomena or to design solutions;

(B) identify and investig8 g6 ()8.8 (,)1.5 ( )]TJ0 -1.749 Td[(()1i5 (n)2 (0 Tdu)]TJ0 Tc 0 Teer5 ( )]TJ01002 T0 Tdu

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(A) explain how disruptions such as population changes, natural disasters, and human intervention impact the transfer of energy in food webs in ecosystems;

(B)