

MEMOS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: The RSD17 Board of Education

Date: 11/12/24

Submitted for Board meeting dated: 12/17/24

Re: Textbook Proposals

Purpose of the memo: *Board action to approve the textbooks for Forensics, Mathematics, and Social Studies 4 & 5 as proposed and discussed.*

Executive Summary:

Textbooks provide core instructional resources for teachers and students. There are three proposals this year, including Forensics, Algebra 1, and Social Studies 4 & 5. Proposed new materials will be made available for viewing at the Central Office. Curriculum Coordinators are requesting Board of Education approval.

Course	Cost
Forensics (HKHS)	\$5,087.75
Algebra 1 (HKHS & HKMS)	\$29,276.00
Social Studies 4 (HKIS) Social Studies 5	\$11,380.40

Next Steps:

If approved, textbooks will be added to the school-based budget requests for the 2025-2026 school year.

Enclosures: Textbook Proposals 2024

RSD17 New Textbook Proposals
BOE Curriculum Subcommittee
November 12, 2024



New Textbooks:

School	Department	Course	Presenters	Brief overview
HKHS	Science	Forensics	H.Rigatti	Updated edition of text (current text is 2009)
HKHS & HKMS	Mathematics	Algebra 1	H.Rigatti	Updated edition of text (current text is 2001)
HKIS	Social Studies	Social Studies 4 Social Studies 5	J.Beermuender	Align to new standards/topics

Forensics Textbook Proposal



Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to modern methodologies, theoretical understanding, and practical application of scientific methods related to forensic science. Forensic Science combines more than one branch of science into a cohesive study and integrates many scientific disciplines. General scientific concepts are explored, as are the principles underlying the scientific method and experimentation techniques through the collection and analysis of crime scene evidence and exploration of lab analysis techniques. An understanding of the relationship between forensic science and legal studies will also be investigated through case studies, mock crime scene investigations and evidence collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation.

- Prerequisites: Biology
- Grade: 11-12
- Credit: 0.5

Current Text:

- *Forensic Science*, Cengage, 2009

Proposed New Text:

- *Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigations, 3rd Ed, Cengage, 2021*
- Features: Online access to activities, well organized, updated addition of current textbook with updated information (new technology) and an addition chapter of forensic entomology, case studies for every chapter
- Price: \$189/student; Includes textbook and MindTap digital access for 6-years
- Quantity to purchase: 26
- **Total: \$5087.75** (\$4914 (student text & digital), \$173.75 teacher's edition, ? shipping)

Rationale:

- Forensic Science changes with updates in technology. The previous textbook was from 2009.
- This book is a new edition of the textbook currently in use and is in alignment with our curriculum.

Components:

- Teacher's Edition
- Student Edition (Hard Copy)
- Access to MindTap which includes an eBook, online assessments, Interactive Labs, and Virtual Labs

Other Texts we reviewed:

- *Forensic Science, An Introduction*, 4th Edition, Pearson, 2022

Course Enrollment:

year	# of sections	teacher(s)
2024-25	2	Saglimbeni
2023-24	2	Cassidy
2022-23	2	Cassidy
2021-22	2	Cassidy

Algebra 1 Textbook Proposal



Course Overview:

This course is based on the big ideas of algebra, conceptual understandings, real world applications, hands-on experiences gathering data, and appropriate uses of technology. The curriculum is organized into units which include a variety of investigations and activities that engage students in active learning. Unit topics include patterns, equations, inequalities, systems of equations, scatter plots, trend lines, and functions (linear, exponential, quadratic). Students will find this curriculum engaging, relevant, and accessible.

- Prerequisites: 8th grade math or Pre-Algebra AND teacher recommendation
- Grade: 8, 9 and 10

Current Text:

- *Algebra 1 Concepts and Skills*, 2001
- "Connecticut Algebra I Model Curriculum", Version 3.0, 2013 [on CSDE website](#)

Proposed New Text:

- *Envision AGA 2024 Common Core*, Savvas, 2024
 - Student Edition + Digital Courseware 6-year license, gr 8/9
 - Teacher Edition Package (5 free)
- Features:
 - Math Background:
 - Focus: overview of content for each topic
 - Coherence: connections to previous content and to future content
 - Rigor: highlighted through conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency
 - Standards for Mathematical Practices
 - Topic Planner- At-a-glance view of lessons for essential understanding, standards alignment, and pacing
 - Topic Readiness Assessment
 - Mathematical Modeling
 - enVision STEM projects
- Price:
 - Quantity to purchase: 160
 - Student materials including digital components: \$160/student
 - Teacher's guides: 5
 - Professional development: \$1500
 - **Total: \$29,276** (Amount will be split between HKMS and HKHS budgets)

Rationale:

- Current textbook is outdated and the current curriculum is based on CT Common Core (2006).
- A new textbook would strengthen vertical alignment.
- A new textbook would present applications that are more current and relatable to the students.

Components:

- Student Edition
- Teacher Edition
- Assessment Resource book

- Write-in Student Companion (optional)
- Common Core Standards Practice Workbook
- Digital Courseware - 6 year license

Other Texts we reviewed:

- *Eureka Math² (squared) Algebra 1*, Great Minds, 2021
- *Reveal Algebra 1*, McGraw-Hill Education, 2020
- *Discovering Mathematics: Algebra*, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2017
- *Algebra 1*, Curriculum Associates, 2026
- *Into AGA, Algebra*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), 2020
- *High School Math Solution: Traditional*, Carnegie Learning, 2022
- *Illustrative Math*, Imagine Learning, 2019

Other CT districts using Envision Algebra 1:

- Branford Public Schools
- New Haven Public Schools
- Waterbury Public Schools

Course Enrollment:

	HKHS		HKMS	
year	# of sections	HS teacher(s)	# of sections	MS teacher(s)
2024-25	3	Ahearn, Miller	3	Mocciola, Pember
2023-24	4	Ahearn, Miller	2	Welles
2022-23	4	Ahearn, Miller	3	Pember

Grade 4 & 5 Social Studies Textbook Proposal



Course Overviews:

In **Grade 4**, students study the human-environment interaction and movement of people and ideas with a focus on United States geography, culture, and environment. Students investigate how people depend on and shape environments using disciplinary tools and resources that support planning and developing inquiries, gathering relevant information, and communication of knowledge and ideas about United States geography.

Course Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do people depend on and shape their environment?• What influences the movement of people, goods, and ideas in the United States?	Course Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understanding Regions2. Location, Place, and Movement3. Regional Interdependence
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In **Grade 5**, students study early United States history and foundations of the United States government. Students investigate an emerging national identity, and American Democracy using disciplinary tools and resources that support planning and developing inquiries, gathering relevant information, and communication of knowledge and ideas about the nation's history.

Course Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the economic, political, and social impacts of colonization in the Americas?• How did the American Revolution shape the national identity of the United States?	Course Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Migration and Settlement2. The Colonial Era3. The American Revolution4. The United States Constitution and Civic Participation
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Requirements - Required Grade 4 and 5 course

Prerequisites - Grade 3, 4 social studies curriculum

Current Text - We do not have a current text.

Proposed New Text:

- *Social Studies Alive, Regions of Our Country* (2022); TCI
 - **Teacher:** Print & Digital Access for 1 year
 - **Student:** Print for all students; digital for some who have accommodations
- Quantity to purchase:
 - 3 teacher copies per grade level (6 total)
 - 150 student workbooks gr 4
 - 135 student workbooks gr 5

- Price for teacher materials: \$2472.00
- Price for student materials this year: \$8,420.00
- Price for student materials year over year: \$5,570.00 (if decide they want workbooks each year)

Additional Texts to Accompany Textbooks:

- America's Past: Activity Cards \$149.00 each (times 3)
- America's Past: Social Studies Stories \$19.00 (75/or 25 per classroom for a class set)
- Region's of Our Country: Activity Cards \$149.00 each (times 3)
- Region's of Our Country: Social Studies Stories \$19.00 each (75/or 25 per classroom for a class set)

Total Cost: \$ 11,380.40

Rationale:

- CT finalized the updated the K-12 Social Studies Standards in the fall of 2023 to align with the following legislation requirements and integrate subject matter prescribed in section 10-16b of the general statutes for Native American studies, Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, climate change, and civics and citizenship. The standards reflect this requirement.
- With updated standards, comes curriculum writing and the need for updated resources. Our 4th and 5th teachers have been writing our Social Studies curriculum for years without a resource to guide them. They have been creating resources, and or searching for grade level appropriate resources that align with the curriculum and standards. This resource will not only reduce planning time for individual teachers, but will align instruction, providing an equitable experience for all students in grades 4 and 5 that are aligned to standards.
- Teachers will now have resources to draw from that are grade level appropriate, up to date, aligned to standards and state specific.

Components: (examples listed)

- Videos, primary sources, maps, quality infographics
- Organization of content well presented
- Unit and Chapter Reviews
- Essential Questions and Standards Alignment
- Student management- materials, quizzes and assignments can be assigned through Google Classroom
- Text to speech accommodations

Other Texts we have reviewed:

- *Impact Social Studies; Regions of the United States*, McGraw Hill: Does not publish a Grade 4 SS textbook specifically for CT as it does for other states (CO, NY, NJ, IN, OK, etc)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt- does not publish a textbook for grades 4, 5 SS, only classroom library books to support Social Studies Topics and not aligned to CT Social Studies Standards/topics.
- Pearson only publishes a general Social Studies Textbook for Elementary and Middle School Teachers as a resource for planning

Projected Course Enrollment:

Enrollment Projections	# of students
Grade 4	148
Grade 5	133