

Overview

With the onset of the adoption of the development of the Pennsylvania Core Standards, including the Keystone Anchors, the Scranton School District commissioned a process to update, align and reorganize the content within the various science subject areas to be in compliance with the current goals and trends in science education and the previously mentioned standards. The results are curriculum guides that will meet the educational needs of all our students in an ever changing society.

Because science is a multi-disciplinary subject, included in these curriculum guides are the Pennsylvania's Department of Education Academic State Standards for Reading in Science and Technical Subjects and the Academic Standards for Writing in Science and Technical Subjects. Currently, there are no approved mathematics standards for science and technical subjects from the Pennsylvania Common Core.

These guides contain the course content recommended by state and national committees. However, by design, these guides allow the teachers maximum opportunity to exercise their judgment and planning in the interest of their students.

A student studying science must have a base knowledge of concepts and generalizations that allows the student to move forward to more advanced concepts. In other words, science is cumulative, and new learning depends entirely on the understanding of concepts previously learned.

A "Suggested Time" column (listing suggested times spent on each concept) is included in these curriculum guides. This column represents a suggestion of times. The teachers developing these curriculum guides used their professional judgment to complete this column. The Science Committee strongly believes that as the district's students move through Pennsylvania Core, these timelines must be revisited and adjusted wherever necessary because of the shift in subject area content. Also note, that the days for all types of assessments (including both teacher prepared as well as standardized assessments) are included in the suggested times. These timelines may be modified to take into account unforeseen schedule changes.

Although only listed once under the "Assessments" column, teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc. are to be used for evaluation throughout the entire curriculum guide.

These curriculum guides must be continually revised to meet any new situations and/or conditions. We believe these guides will benefit both the experienced and inexperienced teacher.