



Carroll County Public Schools Approval of Textbooks and Instructional Materials School Year 2023-2024

Review of Instructional Materials – Criteria for Curriculum Council Review

Only after recommendations from the content area supervisors are materials considered; therefore, it can be assumed that content is appropriate and supports the curriculum. Reviewers are asked to review the materials for the following factors:

1. Meets community standards for language content.
2. Provides appropriate, accurate, and non-biased subject and grade level content.
3. Provides accurate and appropriate recognition of minorities and various ethnic groups.
4. Represents appropriate and current qualities regarding technology.
5. Provides for a stereotype-free presentation, except when historically appropriate.

Subject Area: Career and Technology Education

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
2023 Test Prep: Study and Prepare for Your Remote Pilot FAA Knowledge Exam	Appears to be a very comprehensive book on remote pilot flying. Also offers free prep exams for students seeking certification. Meets review factors (above): 1-yes, 2-unknown content, 3-NA, 4-yes, 5-yes	4	27		
Architecture: Residential Drafting and Design, 13 th Ed.	Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-unknown content, 3-yes (some diversity pictured), 4-yes, 5-yes Beautiful pictures.	3	28		
The Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program – Preschool Edition	The book’s use of the word “equity.” Equity gives the person of authority the power to decide who is more deserving of help. The basis for those decisions have no oversight, and who is to decide? It leaves too much room for unfair treatment of others. Concerns about equity versus equality too. <u>Supervisor’s Response:</u> Per discussion with the reviewer, they have concerns with the general concept of equity (as opposed to equality) more so than the content of the book. As they perused the book, they saw the word “equity” and added their comment. They stated that it was not their intention to block the adoption of the book. (Note: the only reference to the word “equity” was found on page 87 – “Models equitable treatment of all children and families.”)	4	27		
Essentials for Working with Young Children, 2 nd Ed.	Meets review factors: 1 thru 5 - yes	4	27		

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Exploring Drafting, 13 th Ed.	Text features throughout the book support learning the information. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-unknown content, 3-yes, 4-yes, 5-yes Excellent to add to career.	4	27		
Hospitality and Tourism Management, 2 nd Ed.	Meets review factors: 1 thru 5 - yes	4	27		

Subject Area: English / Language Arts – Elementary School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Hatchet	<p>Small realistic fiction about persistence and courage. Great read.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes</p> <p>Given the current circumstances that students are experiencing, I hope the teacher/counselors deal with self-harm issues – a very serious issue.</p> <p>I’m voting Yes, as long as someone talks to the kids.</p> <p>Yes, with the follow-up of school counselors if needed.</p> <p>Ignoring tough issues doesn’t make them go away. Youth suicide is at an all-time high. Better to enlighten and discuss.</p> <p>Fantastic book about survival and resilience!</p> <p>I disagree that this book is appropriate for 5th grade students. In Chapter 13 on page [116] the boy describes how he attempted suicide by cutting himself with his hatchet. This will likely cause fear and anxiety for kids and introduce this dangerous idea of self-harm.</p> <p><u>Supervisor’s Response:</u> This book is about a boy’s survival in the wilderness; and is only being used at one school as supplemental material. The supervisor contacted the parent to discuss the concerns of self-harm. The supervisor also reached out to the supervisor of school counseling to discuss the parent’s concerns, and it was agreed that the book is grade-level appropriate and could possibly give students a window to share with a trusted adult any struggles they are having.</p>	3	28		

Subject Area: English / Language Arts – High School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No – Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Land of Big Numbers	I love the individual stories so they can be read and studied individually if a teacher didn't want to cover the novel as a whole. I found the stories from China very interesting. The use of individual stories is interesting and gives a teacher several ways to use this book in class.	3	28	
Proud: Living My American Dream	Remarkable story of Muslim Olympic woman Ibtihaj Muhammad. Very inspiring with relatable topics of perseverance. A great, inspirational story.	4	27	

Subject Area: GT / Advanced Academics – Elementary School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No – Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Your Fantastic Elastic Brain	Wonderful nonfiction picture book with great illustrations. Some diversity representation in illustrations. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-yes (in resources), 5-yes	1	30	

Subject Area: Health Education – Elementary School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No – Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Bear Feels Sick	A sweet board book with adorable characters. I love how bear's friends take care of him and how he returns the favor. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA (animals), 4-NA (can meet the author/illustrator to get activities at website), 5-yes Love this book!		31	
Brush Your Teeth Please	A fun interactive book with pop-ups and movable brushes. Love the artwork of the characters, bold and colorful. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes.		31	

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
But I Want It!	Cute story about learning the difference between wants and needs. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-yes (meet the author), 5-yes.		31		
The Cool Bean	I love this series of books! Great illustrations and amusing puns. Great messages about being yourself and also being kind. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA (beans), 4-NA (website available for author/illustrator at end of story), 5-yes Such a fun book. I really enjoyed this book and its message about being yourself.		31		
Curious George: Wash Your Hands	Curious George is familiar and loved. Love the fact bubbles about germs and best handwashing practices. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes Love Curious George!		31		
The Emotions Book	Great book that acknowledges feelings and how to work through them. I noticed some similar language to Second Step, which is a great tie-in. Cute images and simple text for targeted age level. Very easy read. Explains each emotion clearly and how each affects you. Pictures help make it clear and enjoyable. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes Such a cute and important book. Parallels Second Step.		31		
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed	Wonderful board book illustrating the familiar song. Great visual for talking about safety, rule following, being a good listener. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes A classic.		31		
The Froggies Do Not Want to Sleep	I literally giggled out loud reading this book! What a fun, silly, wonderful book. Very relatable to 4-5 year olds. May be my favorite on the list. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes		31		
The Good Egg	I love this series! Fun illustrations and puns. Great story about being yourself and not stressing over controlling the actions of others. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes		31		
Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader	Adorable, relatable characters, great illustrations, wonderful examples of respecting space. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes		31		

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Helpers in Your Neighborhood	<p>Incredibly diverse book with wonderfully bright photographs. Comprehensive in the various helpers it includes. Large, simple text perfect for 4-5 year olds.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes</p>		31		
Hooray for Hat	<p>Adorable, simple, colorful illustrations. Wonderful story about friendship, sharing, and acts of kindness.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes</p>		31		
How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?	<p>Appropriate subject, grade level content.</p> <p>What 4-5 year old doesn't love dinosaurs? What a fun book with great illustrations about how to play with friends: sharing, taking turns, etc. Great choice!</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes</p> <p>Such a great series!</p>		31		
I Can Do Hard Things	<p>Great affirmations about how to persevere and be good to yourself and others. Amazingly diverse representation in the illustrations!</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-yes (as resource for parents/educators), 5-yes</p> <p>Excellent!</p>		31		
I Dig Bath Time!	<p>Construction vehicles are so beloved by 4-5 year olds. Great illustrations and wonderful rhymes. A perfect read aloud to encourage bath time.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA (equipment), 4-yes (website for families indicated), 5-yes</p>	1	30		
I Like Me!	<p>Cute illustrations and nice simple text. Loved the message of loving yourself.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>This is a really important message.</p>		31		
It's Ok to Be Different	<p>Diverse representation in illustrations. Simple rhyming text encourages acceptance of the differences between individuals.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes</p>		31		
Lily May and the Ruby Shoes Blues	<p>Cute story with sweet illustrations about embracing differences. Love the suggested interactive/calming activities in the book.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>Beautiful illustrations and wonderful message about self-love and individuality.</p>		31		

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Listening Time	<p>I like how this parallels Second Step for whole body listening. Great illustrations with diverse representation.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p>		31		
Little Cat Hide-and-Seek Emotions	<p>Parallels Second Step with reading face and body language. Great illustrations to relate to various feelings they might identify with.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p>		31		
Little Red Fox Has Feelings	<p>I liked the representation of so many different feelings. I liked how fox was responsible for how he acted with his various feelings.</p> <p>Nice story about a fox and a butterfly that very simply talks about a wide range of emotions, how they feel, and how to deal. Well done.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p>		31		
Miles is the Boss of His Body	<p>Engaging story and illustrations depicting body boundaries. Great examples.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-for teachers (resources in back of book), 5-yes.</p>		31		
Mistakes are How I Learn	<p>I enjoyed the diversity in this book. The idea of not being able to do something “yet” was wonderful.</p> <p>Love how it uses the terminology “growth mindset” and the power of “yet”! Great lessons of resilience and persistence.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, one ethnic group, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>Lack of diversity, but if <i>My Feelings and Me</i> is used, then it would balance out somewhat.</p> <p>Important lesson for children to learn.</p>		31		
My Feelings and Me	<p>Fun, bright illustrations and engaging text about a wide range of emotions and how to handle them. As teacher recommenders noted, it lacks any diverse representation, but still relatable characters.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-no, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>Lack of diversity, but if <i>Mistakes are How I Learn</i> is used, it would balance out somewhat.</p>		31		
Oh the Things You Can Do that are Good for You!	<p>The Cat in the Hat is such a fun, recognizable character and the rhyming is so fun and engaging. Great book for nutrition, exercise, and general health.</p> <p>Engaging for young learners – rhymes. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p>		31		

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Timbi Talks About Addiction	<p>This book explains addiction from the viewpoint of a child (talks about the father). The pictures are sweet and the verses rhyme, which makes it a bit easier to read about a difficult subject. Talks about coping strategies. Very helpful. Would definitely recommend.</p> <p>Tough topic to discuss with kids, but this book does a great job with age appropriate language around feelings and coping skills. I also like the included mention of trusted adults.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA (animals), 4-yes, for resources, 5-yes.</p> <p>Children need to be taught that not everyone who drinks is an alcoholic, and people make their own choices, i.e., smoking, and we are not to judge. I'm glad my kids are grown up and no longer call people out for their decisions – the innocence of children!</p>	1	30		
Why Do I Feel So Sad?	<p>So many great examples about why someone might be grieving, and coping strategies for them. Very relatable and love the diverse representation.</p> <p>This book asks the reader questions after explaining grief. It shares that you are not alone and even adults have grief. Gives suggestions on getting help. Pictures are kind and give feelings of reassurance.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-yes, 5-yes.</p>		31		
Yoga for Little Kids	<p>Wonderful examples of age appropriate yoga positions for kids.</p> <p>Poses are illustrated and designed to help children learn how to stay relaxed. Pictures reflect some diversity. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-website in resources, 5-yes.</p>	1	30		
Yoga Games for Kids	<p>Great examples of yoga positions for kids to help with calming, mindfulness, and feeling centered.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-yes, 5-yes.</p>	1	30		

Subject Area: Science – High School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Biology for the AP Course	<p>Comprehensive text updated for the AP Bio course. Fantastic visuals and varied text features. Love the test prep throughout the book.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-yes, 5-yes</p>	2	29		

Subject Area: Social Studies – Elementary School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Blast to the Past: Washington's War	<p>Engaging novel that includes some fantasy elements (time travel) to address historical events. I think 4th graders will like this.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the end of page 9.</p>	1	30		
Blood on the River: James Town 1607	<p>Engaging historical fiction about the arrival of colonists in Virginia as told by the page of Captain John Smith.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the end of page 9.</p>	1	30		
The Fighting Ground	<p>Historical fiction following one soldier on one day of the Revolutionary War. I like how it is sectioned off by times of the day, giving smaller chunks of text to read and focus on.</p> <p>Meets review factors: 1-yes (a few "d" words), 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the end of page 9.</p>	1	30		
Maryland: An American Adventure 1450-1790	<p>The text, text features, and visuals in this textbook are excellent. Grade appropriate language that is under clear headings. A wonderful resource.</p> <p>Layout conducive to study. Creative. Graphic Organizers. Strong readers/learners can be self-directed through the activities. Some technology included (weather, interviews).</p> <p>Text features – the big question; personalized goals / key terms, examining evidence. Think like a historian. Reviews for chapters. Paintings/pictures/portraits/atlasses. Textbook scavenger hunts. Instructional technology. Colorful. Technology integrated (tech tie-ins).</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the end of page 9.</p>		31		
The Mystery at Mount Vernon	<p>Fun mystery set on the grounds of Washington's home. Simple, engaging text.</p> <p>Technology incorporated – online book club – as a follow up, if interested. Engaging text with descriptions of Washington, DC and Mount Vernon. Four kids involved in exploring a historical site and solving a mystery. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-NA, 4-only as a follow up if desired, 5-yes.</p>	1	30		

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the bottom of page.				
Revolutionary War on Wednesday	<p>Magic Treehouse books are always engaging, solid reads that include bountiful historical facts. This would be a fabulous text for students that are below grade level reading standards.</p> <p>Engaging. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the bottom of page.</p>		31		
Social Studies Alive! Regions of Our Country (online access)	<p>Fantastic update to this textbook with wonderful, engaging visual components. Love the access to the material online!</p> <p>Preview for students / voc. / hands on / rdg. / somewhat you know. Activity online callouts. Dive deeper opportunities. Online resources access. Rich in text features. Pictures reflect diversity. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-yes, 5-yes.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the bottom of page.</p>		31		
We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution – Level 1, 4 th Ed.	<p>Wonderfully designed text that is visually beautiful, addressing government and the constitution. Love that it has an online component as well.</p> <p>Should be updated with the photos.</p> <p>Text features - pictures, portraits. Pictures reflect diversity. Lesson – purposes, objectives, terms to know. What do you think? Reviews / activities, critical thinking exercises. Creative – skits, symbols, letters, dioramas, etc. Town councils. Declaration of Independence, Constitution, amendments, glossary, index. Meets review factors: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-yes, 4-NA, 5-yes.</p> <p>*See general comment regarding Social Studies materials at the bottom of page.</p>	1	30		

*Understanding this is not a full list of resources, I think it's important to point out that many of the historical texts listed here are based on white historical figures (Washington, Revolutionary War, Jamestown), and what appears from this list to be white perspectives. I think it's important to include more content from Black/Brown/Asian/Native perspectives. Different perspectives of the same historical events can portray things very differently, so learning about events from many perspectives, instead of just one, is important.