

**Agenda Item #:**

**ITEM TYPE:** Action

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**TITLE:** Approval of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2025-2026

**DATE:** June 11, 2025

**OVERVIEW:**

Public review and subsequent approval of textbooks and instructional materials will ensure that students are provided with up-to-date instructional materials that meet both curricular and community standards. Curriculum supervisors are recommending the materials on the attached list for possible use in schools beginning July 2025.

The list of materials was introduced to the CCPS Curriculum Council at their March 14 meeting, at which time Council members began the process of reviewing the materials, asking questions regarding use in the classroom, and providing written comments. Council members also had opportunity to review the materials and provide comments in the Board room during the morning hours of April 11 and by appointment in the Department of Curriculum Instruction during regular business hours. In addition, the materials were available for the public through the month of May in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction during regular business hours (by appointment).

On May 16, the CCPS Curriculum Council reconvened to vote and finalize their recommendations for Board approval. The Council's recommendations and all written comments are attached.

In addition, the Family Life Advisory Committee reviewed a video for the family life curriculum and voted on it on November 21, 2024. The results of the voting and written comments are attached.

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Pillar I: Improve Student Achievement

Pillar II: Strengthen Productive Family and Community Partnerships

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:**

For Board approval.

**Submitted by:**

Steven P. Wernick, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**Approve/Concur:**

Nicholas R. Shockney, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia A. McCabe, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



**Carroll County Public Schools  
Approval of Textbooks and Instructional Materials  
School Year 2024-2025**

**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: Advanced Academics – Elementary School**

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	<p><u>Love</u>. Great selection!</p> <p>This is a delightful story with the lesson of finding the value of what you have. Love the access to Chinese folklore and the story of a courageous young girl. Engaging and entertaining!</p> <p>Interesting story about Chinese culture that I think would appeal to its intended audience.</p> <p>Impressed by difficulty of text and exploring other cultures.</p>	6	29	0	
The Wild Robot	<p><u>Love</u>. Great selection!</p> <p>A wonderfully written novel about adaptation and resilience. Great focus on problem solving, perseverance, and friendship. Also, extension thinking into technology in our natural world. Obviously, a popular book amongst children as it was recently made into a movie.</p> <p>I enjoyed this novel and I think it could be very discussion-provoking for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Advanced Academics students.</p> <p>Would the movie be shown afterwards?</p> <p>Exciting, heartwarming, and great life lessons.</p> <p>Higher elementary.</p> <p>Love how it packed so many important topics into a great story.</p>	3	32	0	

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Wishtree	<p>One of my all-time favorite middle grade novels. A tree between two houses that witnesses the lives of the families that live within. Compassion, community, and inclusivity are some of the themes touched upon. A very heartwarming story.</p> <p><u>Love</u>. Great selection!</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA; 5-Yes. Beautiful story with meaningful takeaways (as shared by a tree).</p> <p>Friends can disagree but can learn to overcome.</p>	2	32	1	This story is better suited for the middle grades.

### Subject Area: English – High School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Blood Child	<p>Not a novel, but a collection of 5 short stories that makes its use adaptable to any level English classroom. Really diverse stories with diverse themes. Love the afterwords after each short story to give the reader author insight.</p> <p>I thought the story was well written but was off-put by the brief discussion of abortion and suicide towards the beginning of the story – I didn't think it was necessary to the overall story.</p> <p>Suicide is a topic that is surreal in high school and that occurs – its real life, don't think it's traumatizing in any way.</p> <p>Challenging topics, but high schoolers can handle this.</p>	12	20	3	<p>Abstain: I did review this novel, but am electing to abstain in voting because I am conflicted. I appreciate the literary quality but am off put by some of the topics discussed.</p> <p>I do not believe these books are completely appropriate to review in a high school classroom.</p> <p>I thought it just was not appropriate. Some parts of the stories were not necessary.</p> <p>Not appropriate for a school setting. Self-harm spoken on and riddled throughout.</p>
***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	<p>Serious concerns about <i>Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i>. This has been strongly criticized by the autism community because the author has admitted to not researching autism and it normalizes abuse as an appropriate response. Please consider <i>The Reason I Jump</i> by Higashida or other neurodiversity-affirming books like <i>Same But Different</i>.</p> <p>1-No; 2 thru 3-Uncertain; 4-NA; 5-Uncertain. Interesting story plot includes a portrayal of Asperger's Syndrome (not sure it's 100% accurate for unbiased – does have elements that are somewhat common) and it has profanity throughout which is concerning. I</p>	10	11	14	<p>While I feel that exposing students to a variety of topics is important, I believe that considering another option that is more based on research would be beneficial.</p> <p>I think that more research into this novel's accuracy regarding its portrayal of autism/neurodivergence should be undertaken before we consider introducing this novel into the curriculum. I personally do not have significant</p>

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>welcome conversations on the use of this book and the students' perceptions.</p> <p>A mystery novel told by a neurodivergent individual. Short chapters (which are not numbered by sequential whole numbers, but by sequential prime numbers) that are filled with both humor and interesting insight. I think it would be a very popular read for high schoolers.</p> <p>I think this is an interesting book with a neurodivergent main character.</p> <p>I would like to consider <i>The Reason I Jump</i> by Higashida or <i>Same But Different</i> books as well next year. Providing multiple sources is always beneficial.</p> <p>Maybe the educators could do research behind neurodivergent individuals to correct what may be seen as incorrect. I shouldn't have to take away from the message or plot. But it is understandable that you wouldn't want elements like that to be incorrect.</p> <p>I want to make sure that there is representation, but I hope that this would be used as a vehicle for conversation – perhaps a note to teachers using this could be provided. I'd love to see a book with more accurate representation used in the future.</p>				<p>experience with this population so cannot give more personal insight.</p> <p>Having read this book and knowing a number of people with autism and Asperger's, I don't think this book is a truly good representation of these mental conditions. I would like to recommend <i>The Reason I Jump</i> as a potential replacement.</p> <p>I agree that this book does not properly portray the disability.</p> <p>A huge neurodivergent spectrum – ensure we highlight various individuals and their differences on the spectrum.</p> <p>I would prefer to have more verified research when referring a book for adoption.</p> <p>No: Due to concerns regarding how accurate it is in its portrayal of autism.</p> <p>Would like a more neuro affirming book.</p> <p>While I believe there are beneficial aspects of this book, the concern over the lack of factual research into the topic by the author is my basis for my vote. Having worked with numerous students/adults on the spectrum, it is important for accurate information to be shared, especially because of the broad spectrum involved.</p>
<p>***Future Home of the Living God</p>	<p>We need to make sure we have conversations on the controversial material.</p> <p>Great but very pricey.</p> <p>A unique novel of the dystopian genre with a Native American protagonist. Definitely some challenging themes and would expect his as a choice novel rather than universally assigned. Great focus on identity and relationships.</p> <p>Similar to some of the other high school English books currently up for review, I notice the integration of moderate foul language in this novel and I do not think that is appropriate for necessary for 10<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Abstain: Excellent book, but considering price restriction, I cannot vote either way.</p> <p>Abstain: Not enough frame of reference for me to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Similar themes can be addressed without profanity, and a more reasonable price.</p> <p>I do not think that the purchasing of this book would be fiscally responsible (i.e., it is quite expensive for a novel) and I also</p>

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>graders to read. To me, the presence of the foul language detracts from my potential enjoyment of the overall storyline.</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> graders are able to handle light swearing, and if that is the only detractor of the book, it is not a major concern.</p>				<p>was not appreciative of the moderate foul language throughout.</p> <p>Thought it was a bit inappropriate.</p>
The Last Runaway	<p>I enjoyed this novel and think the story is well written and will be appealing to the intended audience.</p> <p>Not only a look at Quaker life in Ohio in the 1800's (and a girl who has left her home in England for a very different life in America), but it also incorporates the Quaker participating with the Underground Railroad. Unique perspective and excellent story.</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA; 5-Yes/appropriate to the period. Captivating story with several themes to unpack. Mature readers.</p> <p>Like the look at Quaker culture.</p>	6	29	0	
***Specimen Days	<p>I would not recommend this book. Just from browsing it, I noted drug references (mentioning a 9- or 10-year-old child using "a few of his mother's oxycontins" (pg. 132) and also the use of foul language. I understand that this novel is intended for 11<sup>th</sup> graders, but I still do not think this content is necessary, even if the overall story is well written.</p> <p>A foundation of Walt Whitman's <i>Leaves of Grass</i>, characters appear in different centuries including NYC during the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Very engaging and beautifully written.</p> <p>We need to discuss the opioid crisis and its impact on children and adults.</p> <p>Very important messaging. Well written, and at this age children can handle drug references.</p> <p>Appropriate subject matter for 16-17-year-olds. Reflects the real world.</p>	12	21	2	<p>Similar to some of the other high school English novels up for consideration, I did not appreciate the integration of moderate foul language and drug reference. I felt it was unnecessary to the overall storyline.</p> <p>I do not feel this book is appropriate. It is just not necessary.</p> <p>Abstain: If the book is meant for 11<sup>th</sup> graders, I don't think drug use is a problematic topic. Maybe it was added for the history behind the novel.</p>
***The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox	<p>The main character finds she has a great aunt that was admitted to an asylum at age 16 in the early 1900's and left there for 60 years. A wonderfully written novel about discovery of self and family.</p> <p>Appropriate subject matter for high school. Loved the descriptive language.</p> <p>Very good book. Would recommend saving for older grades.</p> <p>I think the overall storyline is good, but I was a little off put by the fact that in just the first chapter alone there were mentions of beer cans, cigarettes, and the use of mild foul language. I don't know that these literary choices were necessary to convey the storyline,</p>	8	25	2	<p>Pretty disturbing. I think we should discuss mental health and the awful mental institutions, but maybe another book without the focus on a guy.</p>

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>but they didn't appear to continue throughout the rest of the novel though, which I appreciated.</p> <p>Mature topics shared within a unique author's craft.</p>				
The Woman Warrior	A novel portraying a Chinese immigration experience tackling some common stereotypes.	9	26	0	

**\*\*\*Based on the voting results and/or comments provided from Curriculum Council members, these books are no longer being recommended for approval at this time. All written comments and voting results are included for Board information.**

### 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:
Cavities vs Toothpaste	<p>A cute book about the importance of dental care. Colorful illustrations and lots of humor to engage young students in the content.</p> <p>This book does a great job of using humor to explain the importance of good dental hygiene.</p> <p>Amusing, with great illustrations.</p>	3	32	0	
Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)	<p>Love!</p> <p>I love rhyming picture books for young students and this has amazing, bright, colorful, fun, and diverse illustrations. It illustrates the many ways to connect with people without hugging those who don't like it.</p> <p>I love all the things this book addresses. I feel any student can relate. I highly recommend this book.</p> <p>This book does a great job explaining personal boundaries which I really appreciate. The rhyming and bright illustrations are nice!</p> <p>I thought this book would be excellent for grades K-3.</p> <p>Boundary discussions are SO necessary in today's world!</p>	3	32	0	
From My Head to My Toes	<p>Great way to lead to a discussion of respecting personal spaces.</p> <p>Has good representation of different people. Good messaging about consent. Dear Adult Reader section can help lead discussion with children about topic. This has an important message; I think it is</p>	1	34	0	

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>imperative to make children aware of dangerous situations and teach them how to deal with it. It is also important that this book takes a focus on sports / abuse in sports.</p> <p>Love!</p> <p>I love all the colorful pics and diversity represented in this book. I love the letter at the end to the "adult reader." Aly Raisman's message is a crucial one that needs to be shared.</p> <p>Simple engaging text with gorgeous, colorful illustrations. Diverse representation covering body autonomy and consent. Beautiful book by Olympian Aly Raisman.</p> <p>This is a wonderful book that teaches about consent and personal boundaries. I love the illustrations and the diverse characters and that it encourages kids to always talk to a safe adult when they are feeling unsure about something.</p> <p>I would rather read this with my own kids and discuss; but some kids don't have that, so I would want them to hear this book, too.</p>				
Give Me Back My Bones!	<p>Appropriate language used; on grade level; informative in an engaging way; unbiased; stereotype-free, all humans depicted as the same.</p> <p>Rhyming and filled with lots of humor. Beautifully illustrated book introducing students to the skeletal system.</p> <p>This is a phenomenal book! I think kids will really enjoy the rhyming scheme and as a healthcare provider, I appreciate that this story introduces kids to the "real" anatomical names of our bones!</p> <p>Great way to lead to a discussion of bones.</p>	5	30	0	
Helpers in my Community	<p>Diverse representations of community helpers, some not often seen in most books on the topics. Great photographs and clear direct text.</p> <p>This is a great book. It has great illustrations featuring diverse characters and really does a great job explaining the roles of various community helpers!</p>	3	31	1	This feels outdated and not engaging for young children.
How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids	<p>Good analogy.</p> <p>I think this book does a great job of explaining the concept of "empty vs. full buckets" to kids. It's a concept a lot of adults are familiar with, and I think it's great that this story is aimed at little ones. I enjoyed how the illustrations showed the small bucket over the main character's head throughout the story.</p>	2	33	0	Abstain: Haven't been taught this concept, so if it is seen as important and applicable to kids' lives then I think it should be utilized.

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>Good story. I've seen many kids respond positively to the bucket analogy and adopt its language to be kind to others. The book is direct and beautifully illustrated to talk about kindness towards others.</p> <p>Double yes if I could. Great book.</p> <p>Good message. Visualizes an idea important for kids to understand. Would recommend this for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, not all of PreK, as it is a simple book.</p> <p>1 thru 2-Yes; 3 thru 4-NA; 5-Yes.</p>				
I Feel (Series of 11 Books)	<p>I really enjoy this book series. The illustrations are fantastic, and the simple sentences could appeal to any elementary-aged students. The books do a great job explaining the various feelings in a way that the target audience can really understand.</p> <p>These are beautiful books with simple, bright, and engaging pictures. The words are easy but capture so much.</p> <p>I love the simple text and the simple, yet bold and colorful illustrations that cover complex emotions. Very thorough and direct.</p> <p>Age-appropriate description of feelings.</p>	3	32	0	
Lily Learns About Wants and Needs	<p>Great illustrations and wonderful text discussing the difference between wants and needs while also subtle focus on making healthy choices.</p> <p>Our students need education on this topic!</p> <p>Good way to introduce/reinforce wants and needs. Includes glossary and ideas for a poster, books to learn more ideas, websites, and index.</p>	5	30	0	
Listening to My Body	<p>Focusing on the physical sensations attached to various emotions to help students identify their feelings. Sweet illustrations and clear text.</p> <p>Great text features.</p>	3	31	1	Some odd drawings that I thought might present weird.
My Body Sends a Signal	<p>This book breaks down emotions into an easy-to-understand way for the age group. I like that it includes activities and coloring at the end to encourage further exploration. The extra focus on anger management is extremely important.</p> <p>Mental health supports are crucial for students!</p> <p>Shows different emotions.</p> <p>Great book about feelings!</p> <p>Fantastic – awareness of mind and control over your response.</p>	2	33	0	

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	A very comprehensive picture book discussing body signals so we can identify emotions. Probably too big for a read aloud but great as a reference and includes cards that can be used to identify feelings.				
My Mouth is a Volcano	<p>Excellent book for teaching about thinking before you speak; good moral lesson; pictures are good for engagement; would recommend this book to grade K-3 teachers; appropriate for grades K-3.</p> <p>Clear text in an engaging story with wonderful illustrations covering active listening and impulse control.</p> <p>Helpful for impulse control and a good way to describe interrupting and validating it's hard.</p> <p>Excellent teaching think before speak.</p> <p>I really like this book. I think it does a nice job of explaining the feeling of wanting to interrupt a conversation and how to control that. I think this is a perfect age group for this book.</p> <p>Great way to discuss/learn about managing impulsivity.</p>	4	31	0	
Someday	<p>This book was uplifting and joyful. It has a very easy transition between times in the future for her "dreams" to how it corresponds to things she is doing in current times. It opens the possibilities to students of how the things they do "today" or "right now" can turn into great things.</p> <p>What a sweet picture book about growth mindset. The dreams kids have and what they can do now to help them grow towards those dreams.</p> <p>Great story about dreaming about the future.</p> <p>Crucial for students to look beyond their "blindness" of what is going on today.</p> <p>Dreaming big in light of where the character is today. Charming.</p>	3	32	0	
Sophie the Sun-Safe Surfer	<p>Simple rhymes and illustrations discussing how to protect yourself from the sun.</p> <p>I think this is a cute book with graphics that will really appeal to these grade levels. I like how the story emphasized the importance of sunscreen even during less "obvious" situations such as cloudy days and even during the winter.</p> <p>As someone who has had skin cancer surgery, this is an important message to impart as early as possible.</p>	4	31	0	
The Sour Grape	Another book by the author and illustrator of <i>The Bad Seed</i> and <i>The Couch Potato</i> . Wonderfully funny book about being grateful and forgiving others. I love this book!	4	31	0	

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>Strong message of being kind to others. Format is helpful, makes sure kids know it's okay to be mad sometimes. Appropriate level for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, could be slightly more complicated with language use to facilitate learning.</p> <p>Really great story.</p> <p>Love this series.</p> <p>Great way to lead to discussing changing our attitudes.</p>				
Wash Your Hands!	<p>Big clear text and great illustrations talking about germs and the importance of washing your hands.</p> <p>This is a cute story, and I think the rhyming theme will appeal to this grade level. It does a good job explaining the importance of handwashing in various situations.</p> <p>Good story to share why/how to wash hands.</p>	3	32	0	
What Were You Thinking?	<p>Great story with fantastic illustrations talking about impulse control and the consequences of impulsive decisions.</p> <p>Great story! Text feature with tips to teach children to manage their impulsivity.</p> <p>I think this is an age-appropriate book that does a good job teaching about impulse control.</p> <p>Truly great illustrations.</p> <p>Helping normalize how hard impulse control is.</p>	3	32	0	
Whose Hands Are These?	<p>Elaborate and colorful illustrations covering community helpers, many of which we don't see in a lot of community helper books.</p> <p>Interactive nature is good for kids' pattern recognition, etc. Motivational/aspirational message. Further information on back is helpful for students who want to learn more. Website is listed but in fine print, may be better to make educational site more available.</p> <p>This is a great book! I loved the illustrations, the rhyming, and the overall story. I think kids will enjoy this interactive book.</p> <p>Beautiful craft/way of sharing community helpers (in a non-stereotypical way).</p>	2	33	0	
Whose Hat is This?	<p>An engaging and interactive book discussing a diverse array of community helpers.</p> <p>This is a really cute book. I enjoyed how each page asks the reader to guess which hat would be introduced next by showing a "sneak peek" of the hat.</p>	4	31	0	

## 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:
Chemistry, AP Ed., 14 <sup>th</sup> Ed.	<p>Online capabilities very useful; pictures/graphics relevant; comprehensive understanding; on grade level; accurate, peer reviewers, unbiased.</p> <p>Love the setup of the chapters. Clear text and great illustrations/diagrams. Great chapter summaries at the end of each chapter. Lots of practice problems and questions.</p>	10	25	0	<p>Abstain: Nowhere near knowledgeable in Chemistry to fairly determine if this is a good textbook.</p> <p>Abstain: I do not take AP's but I'm sure this textbook teaches Chem material well.</p>

## 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:
All the Way to the Top	<p>There are large blocks of text trying to explain complex topics; as this is a picture book, shorter phrases could be better. There are depictions of students in wheelchairs not being allowed to eat lunch, which I don't think there is a basis in reality. Presents those with disabilities not as the same, but explains that is still ok, good message.</p> <p>Excellent picture book about the Capital Crawl and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Engaging text and beautifully illustrated.</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-Web address for the author; 5-Yes. Foreword sets the stage for the nonfiction text. Color pictures. Milestones timeline and information in the back of the book can enhance understanding.</p> <p>Wonderful selection. Understandable.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up only (recommended). I don't think K-1<sup>st</sup> would understand it (need a better, age-appropriate one for them).</p>	4	29	2	<p>Maybe 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Too advanced for younger grades.</p> <p>I feel this book over-simplifies a complex topic. For example, it almost comes across that barriers were intentional towards disabled people, when in actuality it was probably more lack of understanding.</p>
As the Crow Flies: A First Book of Maps	<p>A wonderfully illustrated picture book giving an introduction to maps.</p> <p>No real message, however, could be used when teaching maps. Heavily requires a lesson alongside it to create interest and facilitate learning.</p> <p>Should be used when teaching a map lesson.</p>	5	29	1	Outdated and not engaging.

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
The Boy Who Loved Maps	<p>Wonderful story with sweet illustrations introducing the concept of maps.</p> <p>In a GPS world, I love referencing maps.</p> <p>Superb illustrations.</p>	5	30	0	
Good People Everywhere	<p>1-It does meet community standards for language content. 2-It shows positive things people do around the world, then asks the reader their next good thing they will do. 3,4,5-NA.</p> <p>Absolutely lovely picture book talking about the people in our communities.</p>	4	31	0	
Let the Children March	<p>Don't hide the history!</p> <p>Gorgeous picture book with amazing illustrations depicting true story of children marking for civil rights.</p> <p>There is a tonal inconsistency with use of words, i.e., "dispense or you'll get wet" is very tame where the image shows police hosing down children and using attack dogs. I think it is important that these images are shown and known but describing it as just "get wet" is a little dangerous to how kids with think the Civil Rights prove they weren't hurt, which is false. Book describes desegregation as instant and immediately accepted, which does not show the reality of what happened. This could again mislead kids on the nature of desegregation. However, this is still a very important book to have, and this history should be taught to kids. It does suffer from being a very important topic that is tough to give a happy ending, but that' is unimportant in the face of the story and message.</p> <p>Powerful story and so important to read given current times.</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA (but website for author/illustrator noted); 5-Yes. A glimpse into the past based on facts. Colorful timeline presented.</p> <p>I read this book and felt it was a hard read; especially with the pictures – for more sensitive students. I took it home and shared it with my elementary kids and they loved it! We had really great discussion. They were proud of the children, angry for them, and overall gave this book wonderful reviews.</p> <p>A powerful book with a powerful message and images. This made me cry. I think it's most appropriate for grades 2-5 though, not K-1.</p> <p>I would also love to see more books that highlight the positive contribution people of color have made to the US. This helps build pride and dignity in who they are.</p> <p>Beautifully written and representative.</p>	4	29	2	<p>Better wording to help children understand the severity of the event.</p> <p>Way too advanced for elementary. Perfect for 8<sup>th</sup>. These advanced topics should not be presented so simply. Does an incredible disservice to students and topics.</p>

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
The Little House	A very engaging and interesting story about a little house in the country that after development around it, finds itself in the middle of a bustling city. Excellent read.	5	30	0	
Looking Down	Fantastic picture book, no words but amazing mixed media art to illustrate the concepts of maps and communities.  Needs lesson assistance.	6	29	0	
Miss Paul and the President	Fantastic illustrations and text depicting the campaign for the women’s right to vote.  Wonderful and so important given current times.	3	31	1	Grade 5 okay. Any younger and too advanced to present so simply. This movement was so much more than just what was depicted in this book.
My Map Book	1-It does meet language content standards. 2-It provides young students with colorful example of maps that teach kids not all maps are geographic, then it gives students a chance to make their own maps. 3,4,5-NA.  Really fun and engaging picture book introducing the concepts of maps.  What a great book! My elementary school aged kids will love this. So engaging. They’ll all want to go make maps of their worlds!	5	30	0	
Now Let Me Fly: A Story of a Slave Family	A very thorough and beautifully told story of a family of slaves. Gorgeously illustrated.  1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA; 5-Yes.  Loved the author’s note and first-person style.  I would love to see books about success stories of African Americans being involved in history other than slavery.	1	33	1	Beautiful book – made me cry. 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade and above ONLY. This is too much for 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades. I will buy this for my family so I can explain it as we read (I have kids ages 6, 6, 10, 14, 15).
Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deeds	Excellent! Powerful. I love the sentiment, and it is so needed right now.  1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA; 5-Yes. Intriguing beginning. Charming; it (all good deeds) started by 1 person. Interesting number pyramid – children can find patterns.  So good!  Very touching book about friendships and inclusivity. Diverse representations in these beautiful illustrations.  Message of diversity and inclusion so important.	5	30	0	
Strictly no Elephants	An incredibly sweet book about inclusion and friendship. Gorgeous illustrations with wonderful text.  So precious.  Great illustrations with diverse characters.	2	33	0	Love the message of this.

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
	<p>It meets language content standards and is accurate and non-biased. It very effectively provides appropriate recognition of minority groups because the story's message is to welcome everyone no matter how different they are.</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-Websites shared for author and illustrator; 5-Yes. Charming!</p> <p>Love the illustrations.</p> <p>Love the message of this.</p>				
Those Shoes	<p>A wonderful story about wants vs. needs. Diverse, beautiful illustrations and an engaging story.</p> <p>Story of caring for others.</p> <p>Powerful story about humility, generosity, kindness, and perspective.</p>	2	32	1	Don't like the depiction of minorities being "poor."
Unspoken	<p>An incredible wordless picture book doing a great job of depicting the Underground Railroad without words.</p> <p>This is a wordless book in which it tells the story through a series of pictures. At the end of the book there is a passage from the author about personal experience and then facts about living in the area during the battle of Antietam. This gives the pictures an explanation after the reader could "predict" the storyline. Great tool for teaching predictive literary dissection.</p> <p>I enjoyed that the book told the story through illustrations only. Very appropriate title!</p> <p>I was blown away by this book and its powerful illustrations.</p>	4	31	0	
Window	<p>A wonderful wordless picture book with amazing mixed media art depicting communities.</p> <p>I enjoyed that the book contained no words and instead told the story purely through illustrations.</p> <p>1 thru 3-Yes; 4-NA; 5-Yes. Beautiful collages sharing the story of changes.</p>	4	28	3	<p>Book says by 2020 there will be no wilderness left; seems to be a bit alarmist, though I get the point.</p> <p>Author's note is reactionary and inaccurate. Pretty, but completely unnecessary.</p> <p>This is outdated in the author's note. Not sure children appreciate the sentimental experience.</p>

## Subject Area: Social Studies - Middle School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Passages and Pathways – World Geography: Part 1	This textbook doesn't link how physical and human geography mutually influence each other. I appreciate the space given to understanding the basics of human geography before talking about its effects on certain civilizations.  Books have excellent examples of world cultures.	8	27	0	
Passages and Pathways – World Geography: Part 2	I love the emphasis on how humans shape geography over time, but I wonder if there should also be an emphasis on how geography shapes humans and human civilization. No questions asked of students to evaluate or make judgments for themselves about events in history/geography – we need to engage students in critically-thinking through events and places with an eye to the present and future. Need more questions to why events happen in relation to geography.  As someone who interned in a middle school history classroom, these textbooks are excellent!  Books have excellent examples of world cultures.	8	27	0	

## Subject Area: World Languages – High School

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
InterKulturell 1		17	18	0	Abstain: For all 5 language books, I do not speak the language used, so I do not believe I am able to fairly vote on the textbooks.  Abstain: My lack of familiarity with current world language instruction is the reason for my abstention.
InterKulturell 2		18	17	0	Abstain: Same as above.
Neue Blickwinkel: Wege Zur Kommunikation Und Kultur, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed.		18	17	0	Abstain: Same as above
Suburani: Book I	These textbooks have wonderful illustrations!	14	21	0	Abstain: Same as above

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Suburani: Book II	<p>Good visuals – graphic novel style to help students “see” the Latin language. Inclusion of the arts, including sculpture, ceramics, and other visual arts. Mythology – a great tool to teach Latin. Great inclusion of historical background information. However, there is no historical information on minorities in the Roman world, including slaves and religious minorities (Jews, Christians, Muslims, etc.) that the Latin language affected.</p> <p>These textbooks have wonderful illustrations!</p> <p>I’m just glad there’s still some Latin being taught.</p>	14	20	1	<p>Abstain: Same as above.</p> <p>I think there should be information about minorities within the Latin community.</p>



**Carroll County Public Schools**  
**Approval of Textbooks and Instructional Materials**  
**School Year 2025-2026**

**Subject Area: Family Life Curriculum**

Title	Comments Provided During Review Process	Abstain / Did Not Review	Yes	No –	Please provide your reflection in determining this rating:
Always Changing Growing Up (grade 6 video)	<p>Chris Tobias mentioned the helpfulness of having a link for parents.</p> <p>Bill Vandegrift reminded the group that 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls will be watching the video in gender specific rooms.</p> <p>A few members raised questions about the age appropriateness of the content and the length of the video.</p> <p>Consensus of the group was that it was age appropriate.</p> <p>The value of being able to share a link with parents who want to view and discuss the content with their child was viewed as positive.</p>	2	16	0	