

Disclaimer: The Specific Criteria for science is currently out on public comment as part of Policy 2520.3C – The Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Science in West Virginia Schools. The Policy is out for comment until February 17, 2015. The State Board of Education will then act on the Policy at the March board meeting. I will notify you as soon as possible if changes are made to the specific criteria due to the current comment period.

PUBLISHER:			
SUBJECT:		SPECIFIC GRADE:	
COURSE:		TITLE	
COPYRIGHT:			
SE ISBN:		TE ISBN:	

NON-NEGOTIBLE EVALUATION CRITERIA

**2016-2022
Group IV – Science
Grade 4**

Equity, Accessibility and Format				
Yes	No	N/A	CRITERIA	NOTES
			1. INTER-ETHNIC The instructional materials meets the requirements of inter-ethnic: concepts, content and illustrations, as set by WV Board of Education Policy (Adopted December 1970).	
			2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY The instructional material meets the requirements of equal opportunity: concepts, content, illustration, heritage, roles contributions, experiences and achievements of males and females in American and other cultures, as set by WV Board of Education Policy (Adopted May 1975).	
			3. FORMAT This resource is available as an option for adoption in an interactive electronic format.	
			4. BIAS The instructional material is free of political bias.	

			<p>5. INQUIRY This resource must include rigorous and developmentally appropriate active inquiry, investigations, and hands-on activities.</p>	
			<p>6. SAFETY This resource must include explicit guidance for demonstrating the safe and proper techniques for handling, manipulating and caring for developmentally appropriate science materials and treating living organisms humanely.</p>	

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

**2016-2022
Group IV – Science
Grade 4**

The general evaluation criteria apply to each grade level and are to be evaluated for each grade level unless otherwise specified. These criteria consist of information critical to the development of all grade levels. In reading the general evaluation criteria and subsequent specific grade level criteria, **e.g. means “examples of” and i.e. means that “each of” those items must be addressed.** Eighty percent of the general and eighty percent of the specific criteria must be met with I (in-depth) or A (adequate) in order to be recommended.

(Vendor/Publisher) SPECIFIC LOCATION OF CONTENT WITHIN PRODUCTS	(IMR Committee) Responses				
	I=In-depth, A=Adequate, M=Minimal, N=Nonexistent	I	A	M	N
	<i>In addition to alignment of Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs), materials must also clearly connect to Learning for the 21st Century which includes opportunities for students to develop:</i>				
Next Generation Skills:					
Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills					
Science Content:					
	1. provides opportunities for student collaboration.	I	A	M	N
	2. requires students to investigate and discover multiple solutions through inquiry.	I	A	M	N
	3. includes options for using technology tools to gather information, make informed decisions and justify solutions.	I	A	M	N
	4. engages students in critical thinking and the synthesis of information to analyze real-world problems.	I	A	M	N
	5. offers activities to connect multiple scientific phenomena to real-world events.	I	A	M	N
Information and Communication Skills					
<i>For student mastery of content standards and objectives, the instructional materials will include multiple strategies that provide students with opportunities to:</i>					

	6. interact with secure external multimedia resources for local and global collaboration.						
	7. develop conceptual understanding and research skills.						
	8. articulate thoughts and ideas through oral, written, and multimedia communications.						

Personal and Workplace Productivity Skills

For students mastery of content standards and objectives, the instructional materials will provide students with opportunities to:

	9. use interpersonal skills to work cooperatively to accomplish a task.						
	10. develop and initiate a plan of action to complete a task or project.						
	11. practice time- and project-management skills						
	12. reflect upon and evaluate the results of a task or project.						
	13. assume various roles and responsibilities when working independently or as a group.						
	14. explore science-related careers.						
	15. conduct research, validate sources, and report findings ethically.						
	16. provide learning experiences for students to demonstrate mastery through multiple efforts.						

Developmentally Appropriate Instructional Resources and Strategies

For student mastery of content standards and objectives, the instructional materials:

	17. include multiple research-based strategies for differentiation, intervention and enrichment to support all learners.						
	18. support college and career readiness.						
	19. provide multiple opportunities for incorporating various learning modalities.						

	20. cultivate investigative abilities leading to logical conclusions.						
	21. incorporate authentic vocabulary acquisition.						
	22. integrate laboratory safety practices within learning experiences.						
Assessment							
<i>The materials provide:</i>							
	23. ongoing diagnostic formative and summative assessments.						
	24. a variety of assessment formats, including performance tasks as well as multimedia simulations, portfolio evaluations, and data-dependent and open-ended questions.						
	25. rubrics wherein all learners demonstrate progress toward mastery.						
Organization, Presentation and Format							
<i>The materials:</i>							
	26. are organized in logical sequence to optimize instructional effectiveness and efficiency.						
	27. connect common themes across multiple science disciplines.						
	28. integrate cross-curricular connections.						
	29. provide educators necessary science content knowledge, pedagogy, and management techniques to guide learning experiences.						
Life Skills							
<i>For student mastery of content standards and objectives, the instructional materials will provide students with opportunities to:</i>							
	30. persevere to complete a task.						
	31. be exposed to varying viewpoints.						
	32. engage in physical activity to promote the understanding of science content.						

	33. investigate the natural world and universe.						
	34. practice situational language (e.g., presentations, debates, speeches, collaborative discussions, social media) in real-world activities.						
	35. understand the impact of global issues and events on their lives, communities, and greater society.						
	36. use laboratory equipment properly.						

SPECIFIC EVALUATION CRITERIA

2016-2022 Group IV – Science Grade 4

Fourth Grade Science objectives build on the study of geology, astronomy, chemistry and physics. Through a progressive rigorous, integrated approach, the inquiry-based program of study blends science and 21st century skills and provides students opportunities to demonstrate scientific literacy in the fields of life science, physical science, and earth and space sciences. By engaging in active inquiries, investigations and hands-on activities throughout the instructional day, students focus on the major themes of science: systems, changes, and models in order to develop conceptual understanding and research skills as described in the objectives. Fourth Grade Science promotes cooperative learning, group decisions, cultural diversity, and careers. The curricular focus develops basic problem-solving skills through observing, experimenting and concluding. Engineering, Technology, and the Application of Science objectives are integrated throughout instruction as students define problems and design solutions related to the course objectives. Students use safe and proper techniques for handling, manipulating, and caring for science materials and treating living organisms humanely. Fourth Grade Science intentionally supports developmental and academic growth.

All West Virginia teachers are responsible for classroom instruction that integrates content literacy and *21st Century Learning Skills and Technology Tools*.

General Science Content

The General Science Standard is a content standard that provides an integrated approach to science instruction that is arranged in a coherent manner, follows the logic of learning progressions and spans kindergarten through middle school. The three disciplines of science--Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science--are limited to the major topics in the core ideas from each discipline. From the Life Science discipline the core ideas are the following: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes; Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics; Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits Across Generations; and Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity. From the Physical Science discipline, the topics are the following: Matter and Its Interactions; Motion and Stability, Forces and Interactions; Energy; and Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer. Earth's Place in the Universe; Earth's Systems; and Earth and Human Activity are the topics from the Earth and Space Science discipline. Limiting instruction to the main topics of core ideas allows opportunities for deep exploration of important concepts and provides time for students to develop meaningful understandings, engage in science and engineering practices, and reflect on crosscutting concepts and the nature of science. The foundation not only provides an organizational structure for the acquisition of new knowledge, it prepares students to engage in deeper levels of scientific and engineering practices as they continue to high school, college, and beyond.

Earth and Space Science Content

The Earth and Space Standard is a content standard which spans kindergarten through high school and provides opportunities for students to investigate processes that operate on Earth and also address its place in the solar system and the galaxy. The standard encompasses three core ideas: Earth's Place in the Universe; Earth's Systems; and Earth and Human Activity. Beginning in kindergarten, students make observations, ask questions, and make predictions as they describe patterns in their local Weather and Climate. In later grades, the content progresses to include these topics: Space Systems: Patterns and Functions; Earth Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth; Earth's Systems: Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System; History of Earth; and Human Impacts. Elementary students observe and investigate matter and processes in their own yards and neighborhoods with their own eyes; the content continues in the grades that follow to include investigations of invisibly small phenomena to the unimaginably large and distant. As students investigate the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere, they gain understanding of the differing sources of energy, matter cycles, multiple systems' interconnections, and feedbacks which cause Earth to change over time.

Life Science Content

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The Life Science Standard is a content standard which spans kindergarten through high school and focuses on patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms. The standard includes four core ideas: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes; Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics; Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits across Generations; and Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity. These four core ideas, which represent basic life science fields of investigation—structures and processes in organisms, ecology, heredity, and evolution—have a long history and solid foundation based on the research evidence established by many scientists working across multiple fields. Beginning in kindergarten, curious learners explore Animals, Plants, and Their Environment as they learn of the Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems. In the grades which follow, the inquiry continues as the standards encompass these topics: Structure, Function, and Information Processing; Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits; Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; and Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms. Investigations include single molecules, organisms, ecosystems, and the entire biosphere that is all life on Earth. Students examine processes that occur on time scales from the blink of an eye to those that happen over billions of years. As they make observations, construct hypotheses, perform experiments, evaluate evidence, build models, and use technology to explore how life works, they prepare to answer questions about themselves and the world around them.

Physical Science Content

The Physical Science Standard is a content standard which spans kindergarten through high school as two subjects, physics and chemistry, are presented in a coherent approach which addresses four core ideas: Matter and Its Interactions; Motion and Stability, Forces and Interactions; Energy; and Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer. Beginning in kindergarten, students explore pushes and pulls as an introduction to the Forces and Interactions Topic. The inquiry continues through each programmatic level and includes the following topics: Light and Sound, Structure and Properties of Matter, Forces and Interactions, Energy, Waves and Information, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation, and Chemical Reactions. An understanding of these topics allows students to answer two fundamental questions- “What is everything made of?” and “Why do things happen?” Students apply these core ideas to explain and predict a wide variety of phenomena, such as the evaporation of water, the transmission of sound, the digital storage and transmission of information, the tarnishing of metals, and photosynthesis, to name just a few. Because such explanations and predictions rely on a basic understanding of matter and energy, students’ abilities to conceive the interactions of matter and energy are central to their science education.

Chemistry Content

The Chemistry Standard is a content standard which focuses on the core concepts: Structure and Properties of Matter and Chemical Reactions. Opportunities are provided for studying in-depth phenomena central not only to the physical sciences, but to life science and earth and space science, as well. The standard includes the chemistry concepts found in the Physical Science Standard, but *not* those emphasizing Forces & Interactions, Energy, and Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation. Instead the standard goes into greater depth in the study of matter, its composition, and its changes by including concepts such as the periodic table and modern theories of bonding, the effects of temperature, concentration, and vapor pressure on solubility, types of chemical reactions, stoichiometry, molarity, and gas laws. The standard blends the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines. There is an emphasis on several scientific practices which include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking and constructing explanations.

Physics Content

The Physics Standard is a content standard which focuses on the core concepts: Forces and Interactions, Energy, and Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation. Opportunities are provided for studying in-depth phenomena central not only to the physical sciences, but to life science and earth and space science, as well. The standard includes the physics concepts found in the Physical Science Standard, but *not* those emphasizing Structure and Properties of Matter and Chemical Reactions. Instead the standard goes into greater depth in the studies of elastic and inelastic collisions, buoyancy and fluid dynamics, projectile motion, vectors, circuits and currents, and optics. The standard blends the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines. There is an emphasis on several scientific practices which include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking and constructing explanations.

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Environmental Content

The Environmental Standard is a content standard which focuses on chemical, physical, biological, and geological processes and the interdependent relationships in the natural world. Concepts from the major science disciplines—Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science—are integrated into six environmental topics which include: Biogeochemical cycles, Energy Conservation, Ecosystems, Oceans and Climate, Water Management, Land Use. There is an emphasis on several scientific practices that include developing and using models; planning and conducting investigations; analyzing and interpreting data; constructing explanations; engaging in arguments from evidence; obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information; and synthesizing concepts across various science disciplines. The standard provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of systems of a complex world and the interdependence of organisms as well as an appreciation of the ecosystem in which they live. As students develop an awareness of the environment and its associated problems, they acquire knowledge and skills of how to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.

Forensic Science Content

The Forensic Science Standard is a content standard which applies the knowledge and technology of science to criminal and civil law. Concepts from the three major disciplines—Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science—are reinforced and made relevant and pertinent to students as they acquire techniques and skills and learn the limitations of the modern crime laboratories. There is an emphasis on several scientific practices which include planning and carrying out investigations; analyzing and interpreting data; obtaining, evaluating and communicating information; and using mathematics and computations. Students must address the attention to detail and protocol that are necessary for providing impartial scientific evidence that may be used in courts of law to support the prosecution or defense in criminal and civil investigations. These skills and attitudes transfer readily to other areas of science.

Human Anatomy and Physiology Content

Human Anatomy and Physiology is a content standard which addresses the structures and functions of the human body. While concepts from the Life Science discipline are the major focus of study, concepts from the Physical Sciences are incorporated to explain processes and mechanisms of the human body. The interdisciplinary nature of the sciences is revealed through the interdependency of body systems. There is an emphasis on several scientific practices which include asking questions, developing and using models, constructing explanations, and obtaining and communicating information. Engineering Design Standards are integrated throughout instruction as students define problems and design solutions related to the course objectives. The standard encompasses gross and microscopic anatomy, basic biochemistry and physiological concepts which are foundational to medical fields of study and useful as students make health related decisions.

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science Standards (ETS) are included in science instruction, kindergarten through high school, and provide opportunities for students to utilize science and appreciate the distinctions and relationships between engineering, technology, and applications of science. The ETS are in programmatic levels- Kindergarten through Second Grade, Third through Fifth Grade, Middle School, and High School. As Engineering, Technology, and the Application of Science objectives are integrated with content from the three major strands of science- life science, physical science, and earth and space science- students develop understandings of how scientific knowledge is acquired, scientific explanations are developed, and science is applied in the world around us. The interactive cycle of design offers potential in applying science knowledge and engaging in engineering practices. Students gain experiences and understandings about the following: 1.) using technology to modify the natural world to fulfill human needs or desires; 2.) using an engineering approach to design objects, use processes, or construct systems to meet human needs and wants; and 3.) applying scientific knowledge for a specific purpose, whether to do more science, design a product, process, or medical treatment, develop a new technology, or to predict the impacts of human actions.

Literacy

Literacy Standards span middle and high school and address skills which are critical to building knowledge in science. The standards work in tandem with the specific content standard demands outlined in the West Virginia Next Generation Science Standards and Objectives. Reading in science requires an appreciation of the norms and conventions of the sciences which includes a working knowledge of domain-specific words, phrases, and symbols; an understanding of the

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nature of evidence used to support claims; an attention to precision and detail; and the capacity to make and assess intricate arguments, synthesize complex information often presented qualitatively and quantitatively in tables and graphs, and follow detailed procedures and accounts of events and concepts. Students also need to be able to gain knowledge from elaborate diagrams and data that convey information and illustrate scientific concepts. Likewise, writing and presenting information orally are key means for students to assert and defend claims in science, demonstrate what they know about a concept, and convey what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and learned. The skills and understandings students are expected to demonstrate in both reading and writing have a wide applicability outside the classroom and workplace and serve students as they address public and private responsibilities and interests.

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General Science Content					
Energy					
	1. use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.				
	2. make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents.				
	3. ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide.				
	4. apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.*				
	5. obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.				
Waves: Waves and Information					
	6. develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.				
	7. generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.*				
Structure, Function, and Information Processing					
	8. develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.				

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	9. construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.						
	10. use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.						
Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth							
	11. identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.						
	12. make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.						
	13. analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.						
	14. generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.*						
Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science							
Engineering Design							
	15. define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.						
	16. generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.						

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