# 2026 Recommended K-12 High-Quality Instructional Resources for Science

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

Educators have more options than ever to find instructional resources designed to meet their local priorities and student needs. However, in such a crowded marketplace, identifying high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs) that are aligned to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Science* and meet specific school and district needs can be challenging.

Local districts hold the authority to develop curriculum and select instructional materials. Superintendents, in collaboration with school leaders and stakeholders, are responsible for determining which curriculum, textbooks, instructional materials and student support services will be used in schools.

Per the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Model Curriculum Framework and the instructional resources Consumer Guides, **EdReports.org** is a **recommended** starting point for district and school review teams to research available evidence-based materials. EdReports provides free reviews of K–12 instructional resources and offers comprehensive information about indicators of quality, including standards alignment and usability, from a variety of publishers. Superintendents and district review teams can be confident that green-rated resources identified by EdReports demonstrate at least 80% alignment to the *KAS for Science*.

Using green-rated resources from EdReports and the markers of high-quality science instructional resources, the KDE has developed a **recommended list** of Tier 1 core comprehensive high-quality instructional resources for science. A core comprehensive instructional resource serves as the primary means of instruction in a content area for a grade level or course.

The **recommended list** will be updated as new green-rated resources are added to EdReports.org. Previously recommended resources will remain on the list, and newly reviewed resources that meet the criteria will be added.

While all vendors on the recommended list meet KDE's standards for high-quality instructional resources, districts and schools should carefully review materials to determine which HQIR best aligns with their local instructional vision and the needs of their teachers and students.

## Elementary (K-5)

| Publisher | Title | Grade Band |
|---|---|---|
| Amplify | Amplify Science, 2022 | K-5 |
| OpenSciEd | OpenSciEd, 2024, 2025 and 2026 | K-5 |
| Smithsonian Science Education Center | Smithsonian Science for the Classroom, 2021 | K-2 |
| Smithsonian Science Education Center | Smithsonian Science for the Classroom, 2023 | 3-5 |

## Middle School (6-8)

| Publisher | Title | Grade Band |
|---|---|---|
| Activate Learning | Activate Learning Certified Version of OpenSciEd, 2023 | 6-8 |
| Amplify | Amplify Science, 2018 | 6-8 |
| Carolina Biological Supply Company | Carolina Certified Version of OpenSciEd, 2023 | 6-8 |
| Kendall Hunt Publishing Company | Kendall Hunt Certified Version of OpenSciEd, 2022 | 6-8 |
| OpenSciEd | OpenSciEd, 2022 | 6-8 |
| SEPUP/Lab-Aids | Issues and Science, Third Edition Revised, 2020 | 6-8 |

## High School (9-12)

| Publisher | Title | Grade Band |
|---|---|---|
| Kendall Hunt Publishing Company | BSCS Biology: Understanding for Life, 2022 | 9-12 |
| OpenSciEd | OpenSciEd Biology, 2023 | 9-12 |
| OpenSciEd | OpenSciEd Chemistry, 2023 | 9-12 |
| OpenSciEd | OpenSciEd Physics, 2023 | 9-12 |