



DATE: June 23, 2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Carmen Ghysels, Superintendent Chief Learning Officer

SUBJECT: First Read of Adoption of AP Chemistry Textbook

PRESENTED BY: Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services

ACTION REQUESTED

First Read of Adoption of AP Chemistry Textbook

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For several years now, TTUSD has used the Zumdahl Chemistry textbook. On its own, it is a fine textbook and is extremely popular as an adopted textbook for AP Chemistry programs across the country. However, the AP Chemistry teachers in TTUSD would like you to consider our preference for adopting a new textbook for AP Chemistry, **AP Chemistry: The Central Science by Brown, Lemay, and Bursten (14th edition)**.

There are several reasons why we would like to switch to a different textbook for the AP Chemistry courses in the district. First, the Zumdahl book has not fully adjusted to the new Course and Exam Description standards for the course, which first started back in 2012. Topics such as Photoelectron Spectroscopy and Beers Law are not covered to the depth they should be. Additionally, we find the Zumdahl book can be very wordy when it comes to text explanations. Lastly, the Zumdahl book does not match the quality of the supplemental materials that come with the Brown/Lemay program.

The Brown/Lemay program offers several advantages in our view to the Zumdahl program, even though the structure of the content in both texts is very similar. First, the Brown/Lemay textbook does a fantastic job of incorporating particulate diagrams, which has been a huge emphasis of the AP Chemistry curriculum since the standards shifted back with the 2012 administration of the exam. There are also more questions focused on building and assessing conceptual understanding throughout the chapters, which is also a bigger focus of the new exam administrations.

Additionally, the newest edition of the Brown/Lemay book brought on a new author, Dr. Stoltzfus, who specializes in Digital Curriculum. Adopting the Brown/Lemay book will give our students access to *Mastering Chemistry*, an accompanying online curriculum repository and homework program. Many colleges are also using this program, which allows teachers to do several different things, including assigning end-of-chapter questions from the students' textbook, as well as tutorials, interactive activities, and videos for them to watch.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: State textbook funds will be used to purchase these materials.

PREPARED BY: Mindi Brenner for Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services.