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4-6-2018

A Small School's Journey to NGSS Curriculum Adoption and the First Year of Implementation

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Recommended Citation

Carpenter, Elizabeth and Ramaeker, Gayle, "A Small School's Journey to NGSS Curriculum Adoption and the First Year of Implementation" (2018). *Science Education Update Conference Documents*. 5.

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Lamoni Schools' Journey to NGSS Curriculum Adoption



and the First Year of
Implementation.

End of Last Year

I. New HS Classes

- A. Integrated Science I
- B. Integrated Science II
- C. Advanced Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- D. Other:

<https://www.draw.io/?state=%7B%22ids%22:%5B%220B3R1IVehE6t1c2p1SDJDbEdUODA%22%5D,%22action%22:%22open%22,%22userId%22:%22109785991989864825926%22%7D#G0B3R1IVehE6t1c2p1SDJDbEdUODA>

- ## II. Lamoni Community Schools needed a PreK-12 Curriculum that aligned with NGSS.

Why STEMscopes

I. Why STEMscopes

- A. Alignment with Iowa Core/NGSS
- B. 5 E (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) Model
- C. Phenomena Based Units
- D. Cost
 - 1. \$12,324.00 for 5 year subscription
 - a) Included PD
 - b) WITHOUT Kits
 - 2. Discovery
 - a) About \$22,000.00

What our Teachers say at the End of First Year

- I. We surveyed elementary teachers

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mJ2AfKDD1Dglo1EX-mAlqNoyk8abxGWBCUKTdEDGqiQ/edit>

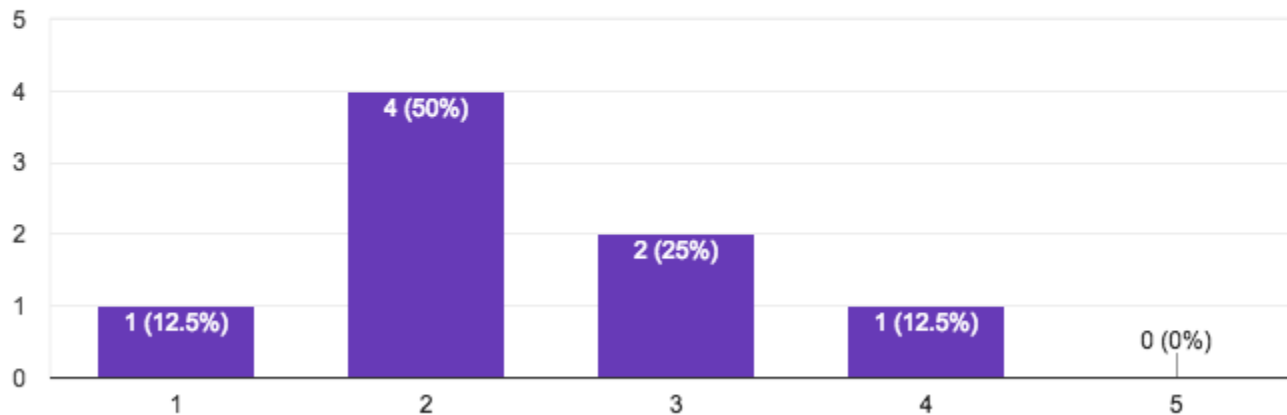
8 out of 11 teachers responded

How Easy has STEMscopes been to implement?

1 being Not Easy and 5 being Very Easy

How easy has Stemscores been to implement in your class?

8 responses



Do you believe Stemsscopes is a good fit?

- I. Yes, it is a good fit for Elementary. BUT....
 - A. “I feel like there is some meat missing, that I don't get from the scope info.” - 4th Grade Teacher
 - B. “Some of the activities needed more support than described in the curriculum.” - 2nd Grade Teacher
 - C. “In my opinion and takes a lot of prep.” - Kindergarten Teacher

Challenges in Implementation?

I. Some Challenges

- A. “Dependency on technology at times. Sometimes technology just doesn't work when you need it.” - 2nd Grade Teacher
- B. “I feel like the question/answer journals are a little basic compared to the deep thinking we do in the activities. “ - 4th Grade Teacher
- C. “It doesn't flow very well.” - 5th Grade Teacher

What would help make STEMscopes work better?

I. GET THE KITS

- A. “More materials for students to gain factual information.” - 4th Grade Teacher
- B. “Having all the colored pictures and supplies ready from the beginning. We should have purchased the starter kits” - Kindergarten Teacher
- C. “More time and more adults” - PreK Teacher
- D. “Just more experience with it; I think buying the kits would have been better.” - 2nd Grade Teacher

Would you recommend Stemsscopes?

I. Yes and No

- A. Yes but not strongly over something else - 2nd Grade Teacher
- B. From what I've seen so far, no. I would've liked to have looked into other options first. -2nd Grade Teacher
- C. Yes because I think it will get better next year. I'll know better how to plan. - 5th Grade Teacher
- D. “Not really. I feel like there is too much prep and the information is very shallow. I find that we supplement quite a bit” - Kindergarten Teacher

Year 2?

I. More Planning

- A. “I will take more time to plan out units and supplement where needed.” - 4th Grade Teacher
- B. “Dig into everything so I'm more familiar with it and prep more.” - 2nd Grade Teacher
- C. “I would try to find ways to let students access the site more individually.” - 2nd Grade Teacher
- D. “I'll just follow the units as listed, instead of trying to fit it into a logical order.” - 5th Grade Teacher

Middle School

I. Stemsscopes in Middle School

A. Online curriculum

1. Engaging for most students
2. Available for students and parents anytime
3. Teacher preparation videos
4. Complete materials lists
5. Works well with Google classroom

B. MS level activities

1. Relevant to the standards for each scope
2. Most lessons include a literacy, math, or social studies connection component
3. Science Today and Career Connections videos provide real world connections
4. Student tools for audio, note taking, and highlighting

C. Assessment CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning)!!!

1. Makes the students write from evidence.
2. Hard to teach and hard for the students to know what to write.
3. Variety of activities for individual and group work and research

High School

I. Technology issues until NOW

A. Online curriculum is not useful if not 1 - 1.

1. Just went 1 - 1 LAST WEEK!!!!
2. Did LOTS of printing

B. HS level activities Good

1. Hands on and engaging.
2. Math not on their level at times. (Working on aligning Math and Science Standards)
3. I still use activities created by ICCISC group (Big Bang Unit)

C. LOVE CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning)!!!

1. Makes the students write from evidence.
2. Hard to teach and hard for the students to know what to write.

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

The CER comes at the end of a Scope as an Evaluation piece

<https://app.acceleratelearning.com/scopes/10810/elements/446505>

Examples:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zlrFA6m1CsVZA8sp7V23LtLMBnbDvV_9GHvPQ8SS3G8/edit

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ERhvFfj7dNjnvgPBQAFrt8XZPgngwLb6lsaDIe3Tq1zg/edit>

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<https://goo.gl/forms/iHKxuuDORIIRJeDn2>