

EdReports Review of Impact Science - Response from the Publisher 2/2021

While we have cooperated with and respect EdReports review, we disagree with their findings and offer the following in support of **Impact Science** Middle School program (available by discipline or as an integrated curriculum).

- The EdReports review is not a reflection of the quality or alignment of Impact Science to the CA-NGSS Standards. **The California Board of Education, after an extensive review of instructional materials clearly stated that:**
 - **Impact Science**: *Integrated Middle School Program for CA NGSS* was adopted by the SBE for 6–8 because the instructional materials include content as specified in the *Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools (CA NGSS)* and **meet all the criteria in Category 1 with strengths in categories 2–5.**
 - *Criteria Category 1: Alignment with the CA NGSS Three-Dimensional Learning*
 - The program includes content as specified in the *CA NGSS* and includes a well-defined sequence of instructional opportunities that provides a path for all students to become proficient in all grade-level performance expectations.
 - *Criteria Category 2: Program Organization*
 - The organization and features of the instructional materials support instruction and learning of the *CA NGSS*.
 - *Criteria Category 3: Assessment*
 - The program includes multiple models of both formative and summative assessment tasks for measuring what students know and are able to do and provides guidance for teachers on how to use scoring rubrics and interpret assessment results to guide instruction.
 - *Criteria Category 4: Access and Equity*
 - Program materials ensure universal and equitable access to high-quality curriculum and instruction for all students and provide teachers with suggestions for differentiation for students with special needs.
 - *Criteria Category 5: Instructional Planning and Support*
 - The instructional materials provide coherent guidelines for teachers to follow when planning three-dimensional instruction and are designed to help teachers provide effective standards-based instruction.

Some additional responses supporting Impact Science:

Student Engagement Value

- **Impact Science** strives to make NGSS, and CA-NGSS more engaging for students with driving questions that capture student imagination and unit spanning engineering design projects that students get excited about. EdReports requires that all projects be directly related to the performance expectations and the anchor phenomenon, and this does not always make for interesting projects for students. Also, EdReports definition and use of an anchor phenomena and **Impact Science's** differ. **Impact Science** utilizes Anchor Phenomena that engage and interest students and provide a unifying pedagogical thread that runs through each unit.

Real-World Connections and Equity

- **Impact Science's** Introductory Units are valued by students and teacher. These introductory units offer teachers and students a look at science careers and equity in science. These types of resources are not valued in the EdReports review format.

Case Study: Newark, CA

In a recent Middle School Science adoption in Newark, CA**, **Impact Science** was selected over Amplify Science (a program rated highly by EdReports) for the following reasons (*see actual school board data in charts below):

Summary: **Impact Science** was felt to be the superior Middle School Science program to Amplify Science because it:

- did a better job of integrating, presenting, and assessing the 3-Dimensions of science (DCIs, SEPs, CCCs),
- offered stronger unit coherence,
- provided teachers more opportunity for differentiated instruction for diverse learners,
- offered teachers a more complete opportunity to monitor student performance,
- offered teachers and students more opportunities for hands-on investigations,
- provided students more opportunities for open-ended problem-solving,
- provided students more opportunities to think critically, generating claim-evidence-reasoning statements,
- was much more adaptable due to the **customizable format** of the program.

The Board also found that almost 70% of students preferred and were more engaged with learning science in Impact Science.

*Educators were asked to rank the two programs across 7 criteria and Impact Science came out equal to or much better than Amplify on all seven criteria:

Criteria	Impact Science	Amplify
Explaining Phenomena	3	3
3 Dimensions	5	1
Unit Coherence	5	3
Relevance & Authenticity	3	3
Differentiated Instruction	3	1
Monitoring Student Performance	5	1
Adaptability	5	1

When asked – which program did your students prefer, Impact Science was chosen by students over 65% of the time.

	Students Preferring Impact Science	Students Preferring Amplify
Grade 7	68%	32%
Grade 8	70%	30%

**Link to Board Meeting notes available upon request.