

**HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ACTION REPORT**

**April 14, 2025**

**Kindergarten Science Curriculum**

**Background Information**

The current HCPS Kindergarten Science Curriculum was updated to align with Maryland’s Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in September 2015. The Office of Science, in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood Education, reviewed and identified instructional gaps in the current kindergarten science curriculum that warranted updates. The curriculum team determined that rewriting the current kindergarten curriculum to enhance alignment with the NGSS and the 5E (Engage, Explore, Explain, Extend, Evaluate) lesson model was the best choice to enhance alignment, rigor, and developmentally appropriate instruction.

In 2023, a comprehensive curriculum team was formed, which included both a writing team and a review team to rewrite the curriculum. The team was trained in the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards, current science pedagogy, best practices for inquiry-based science, science note-taking, integrating reading into science, and 5E lesson planning. The team studied the kindergarten NGSS and bundled standards into three science units (Earth & Space Science, Physical Science, and Life Science). Engineering design standards were also integrated into units. Curriculum maps were created to guide unit development with multi-day experiences as a guide for kindergarten teachers with resources and materials to support hands-on, inquiry-based science instruction.

**Requested Action**

The Science and Early Childhood Offices request that the Kindergarten Science Curriculum be approved by the Board of Education for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year.