



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

June 14, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Technical Edits to the 2010 Virginia *Science Standards of Learning* Curriculum Framework for Life Science, Physical Science, and Biology

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify school divisions regarding three areas of recent technical edits to the 2010 *Science Standards of Learning* Curriculum Framework, which was adopted by the Virginia Board of Education on November 18, 2010. Edits were made in the Life Science, Physical Science, and Biology frameworks to correct inaccurate content.

- In the Physical Science Curriculum Framework, the descriptions of “concave” and “convex” were inadvertently reversed in the explanation of *lenses* (not mirrors) and refraction. These terms have been changed to make the statements scientifically accurate.
- The Biology Curriculum Framework states that there is a traditional and a modern cell theory. This dichotomy is scientifically inaccurate and has been corrected. There is one cell theory, which has developed further over time. In addition, the description of cell theory has been generalized at this level so that it is applicable to both eukaryotic cells and prokaryotic cells.
- The Life Science Curriculum Framework states that the “modern” cell theory will be addressed in Biology. This statement has been deleted to reflect the corrections in Biology.

The revised Curriculum Framework pages containing the technical edits can be found in Attachment A. The 2010 *Science Standards of Learning* Curriculum Framework with the recent technical edits may be accessed and downloaded at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/index.shtml. For further information, please contact Eric Rhoades, director, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

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Attachment:

- a. [Technical Edits to the Physical Science, Biology, and Life Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework](#) (PDF)