

# SMC Amplify Pilot Plan, April 13, 2018

## **WHY ARE WE PILOTING AMPLIFY PRODUCTS?**

The SMC Materials Team looked at representative kits to determine our current materials are not aligned to NGSS. And over the last two years groups of teachers have worked on adding additional guides and other tools to support NGSS with those materials.

After reviewing several available materials with the EQuIP Rubric, the SMC Materials Team recommended we more closely examine Amplify.

Because nothing is perfect, before recommending adoption of Amplify across the cooperative, we want to better understand how thoroughly Amplify aligns to and supports NGSS-aligned learning.

We will implement a representative number of Amplify units in order to determine if the entire product line has the potential to meet our needs.

Amplify was the best thing available to us to examine. While we intend to look at other publishers' materials as they become available, piloting Amplify will both move us forward in understanding NGSS-aligned instruction while at the same time provide us with better information about the product.

Piloting Amplify will allow us to collect feedback from teachers about how well the products support instruction; and students in these classrooms will provide feedback about their learning.

Piloting Amplify will give us an opportunity to test the quality of Amplify's Customer Services.

Piloting Amplify will give the staff at the NWESD SMC an opportunity to look inside the "box" and determine how to support the units/materials sustainably.

## **Requirements for the pilot:**

Multiple teachers must try each kit in order to get a broad understanding of suitability.

The more teachers who try each kit, the more reliable and complete the information we collect will be.

Districts participating must be willing to fund the kits their teachers pilot.

## Criteria required to qualify to pilot:

Teachers must have professional learning from Amplify in order to pilot.

Districts and schools must agree to provide teachers with the necessary required time to pilot (in most cases 22 hours of instructional time per kit, see below) plus preparation time.

Teachers must teach the materials with fidelity.

Teachers must agree to evaluate their use of the materials using the EQUIP rubric and surveys as defined by the NWESD SMC Advisory.

## Constraints of the pilot:

Each kit comes with materials for 2 classrooms of 36 students. To be cost effective, each kit purchased for piloting should be used by 2 teachers

Not all teachers may be able to use the materials at exactly the same time.

Teachers will need to use online teacher materials rather than purchasing additional printed copies. Should teachers wish paper guides, they will be free to print them.

Because we are not likely to spend the minimum amount to get one day of professional learning FREE, the \$3200 cost for professional learning will be borne by piloting districts.

In order to get professional learning in August 2018, Amplify needs an order. The NWESD SMC will place the initial pilot order to streamline and accelerate the process of purchasing piloting materials. Districts will be invoiced for the cost of the kits they pilot. Should there be subsequent orders, these will be made directly by districts.

## Proposed Units by Grade level based on units the SMC Materials Team teachers reviewed

Grade	Unit Title	# Lessons	Time	Cost
Kinder	Sunlight and Weather (ESS)	22	16.5 hrs.	\$50 + \$795
First	Animal and Plant Defenses (LS)	22	16.5 hrs.	\$50 + \$750
Second	Properties of Materials (PS)	22	22 hours	\$50 + \$925
Third	Weather and Climate (ESS)	22	22 hours	\$50 + \$1,150
Fourth	Energy Conversions (PS)	22	22 hours	\$50 + \$820
Fifth	The Earth System (ESS)	26	26 hours	\$50 + \$795

Time is instructional time, figured K-1, 45 minutes per lesson and 2-5<sup>th</sup> grades, 60 minutes per lesson.

Cost is the base price of the kit plus the annual online access fee for two teachers. While each kit has enough materials to be taught twice, each teacher will need access to the online materials. Annual online fees are \$25 per teacher. This does not include extra student notebooks which cost between \$1.99 K and \$3.99 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> each, nor the Starter Kit, cost \$255, which is used with all kits. Each kit comes with one student notebook and students can use classroom science notebooks. The SMC will be sure teachers have the materials in the Starter Kit or they may in many cases already have access to these materials.