AP Biology Textbook Adoption

Chris Chamberlin

December 3, 2026

Agenda

1. Introduction of the textbook adoption committee
2. Review of textbook adoption process
3. Recommendation and rationale
4. Anticipated cost
5. Next steps
6. Q & A

The Committee



Yumeca Webb-Jordan
CHS Supervising Administrator of Science



Shannon Glover
CHS Instructional Coach



Jimmy Green
CMS Science Learning Facilitator



Katherine Scharf
CHS AP Biology Student



Chris Chamberlin
Instructional Specialist for Science & Innovation



Sherry Hodges
CHS Science Department Chair

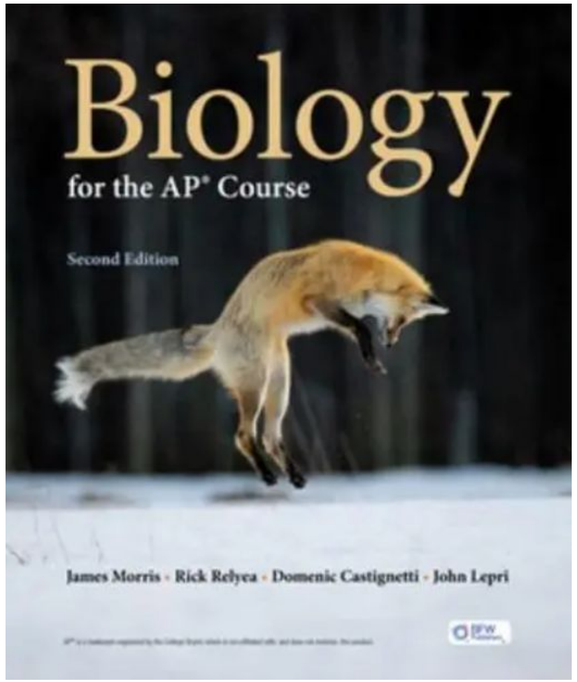


Kaitlyn Ray
CHS AP Biology Teacher

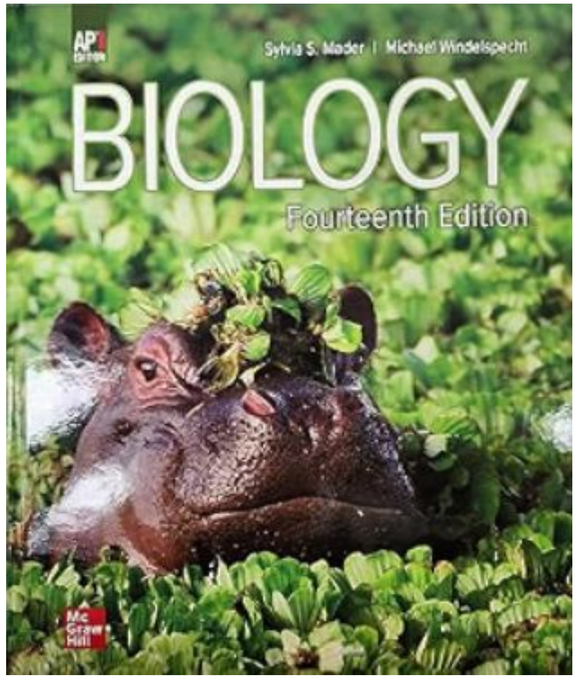
The Process

- **Summer 2026:** ***Textbook Samples Requested***
  - Coordinator requested samples from publishers listed on College Board's website for review.
- **Fall 2026**: ***Committee Evaluation of Textbooks***
  - Committee used the VDOE rubric to evaluate 3 textbooks from College Board's list and decided official recommendation for adoption.

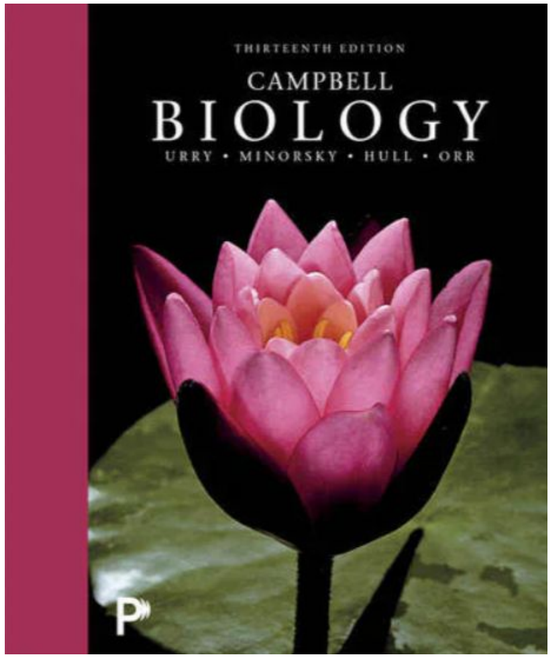
The Textbooks Reviewed:



Biology for the AP Course (Morris, et al. 2026)



Biology: 14th Edition (Mader, et al. 2022)



Campbell Biology AP Edition (Urry et. al. 2027)

VDOE Textbook Evaluation Tool:

8 Criteria :

1. Readability & Accessible Tone
2. Structural Layout & Navigation
3. Diagram Clarity & Visual Models
4. Real World Content & Applications
5. Differentiated Support & Vocabulary
6. Inline Formative Skills Checks
7. AP-Style Assessment Quality
8. Teacher Edition & Digital Suite

RATING SCALE DEFINITION (1 - 4 SCALE)

Score	Rating Level	Plain-English Meaning	Actionable Evaluative Standard
1	**Poor / Missing**	Does not meet basic needs	Critical content, visual diagrams, or required AP practice are missing or unreadable.
2	**Partial / Marginal**	Partially meets criteria	Covers concepts shallowly; requires substantial teacher-created supplements or workarounds.
3	**Meets Expectations**	Clear, accurate, & complete	Fully covers AP/VDOE standards with accessible explanations, clear figures, and solid student aids.
4	**Outstanding / Exemplary**	Exceptional clarity & depth	Features outstanding visual graphics, engaging writing, step-by-step AP math, and rich lab support.

Tool can be found HERE. Equity addendum - adoption team considered elements of this addition when the top two textbooks were selected.

VDOE Textbook Evaluation Tool:

When we quantified the scores for each book, these were the overall scores:

- Biology for the AP Course (Morris, et al. 2026) **202**
- Biology: 14th Edition (Mader, et al. 2022): **171**
- Campbell Biology AP Edition (Urry et. al. 2027): **161**

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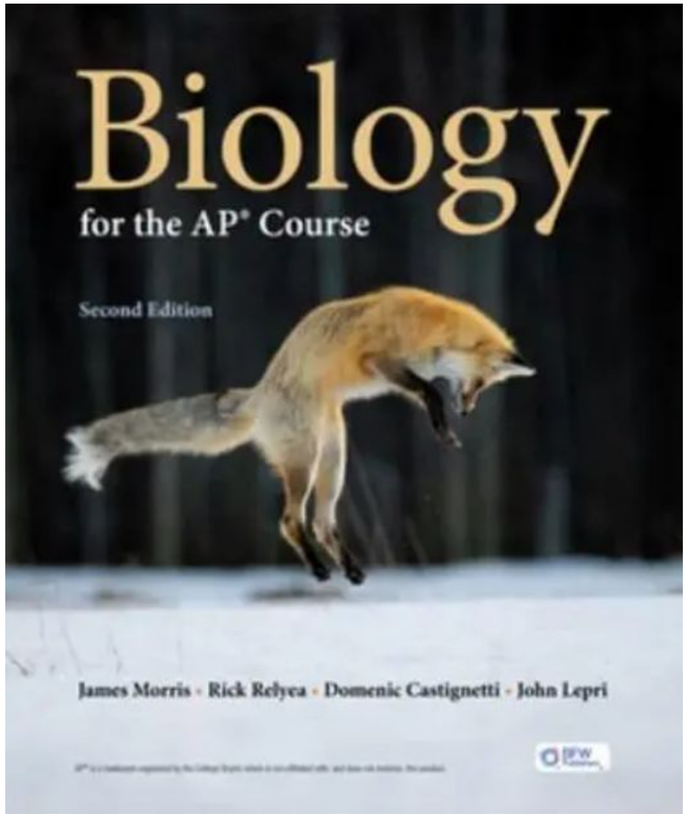
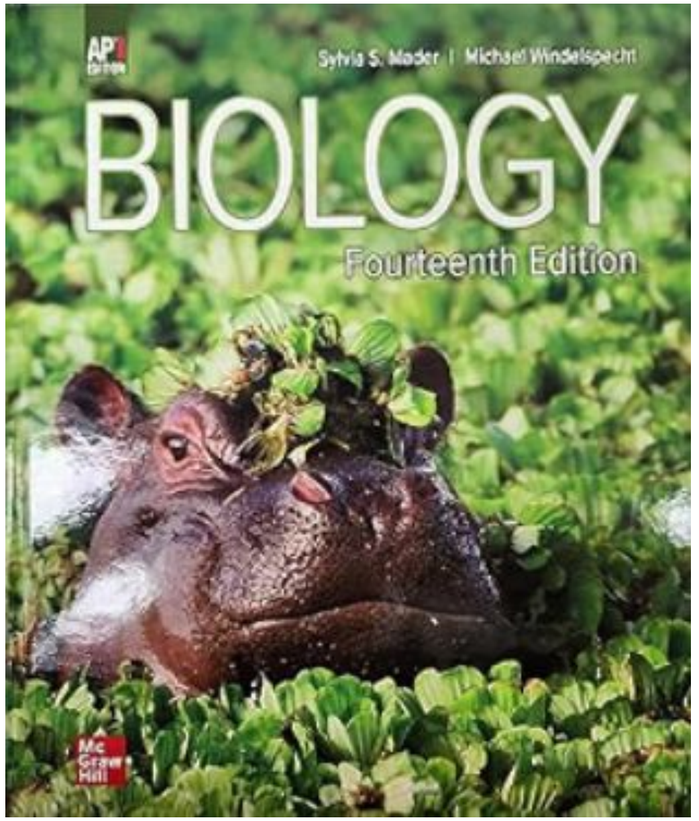
The Textbook Finalists:



Biology for the AP Course
(Morris, et al. 2026)

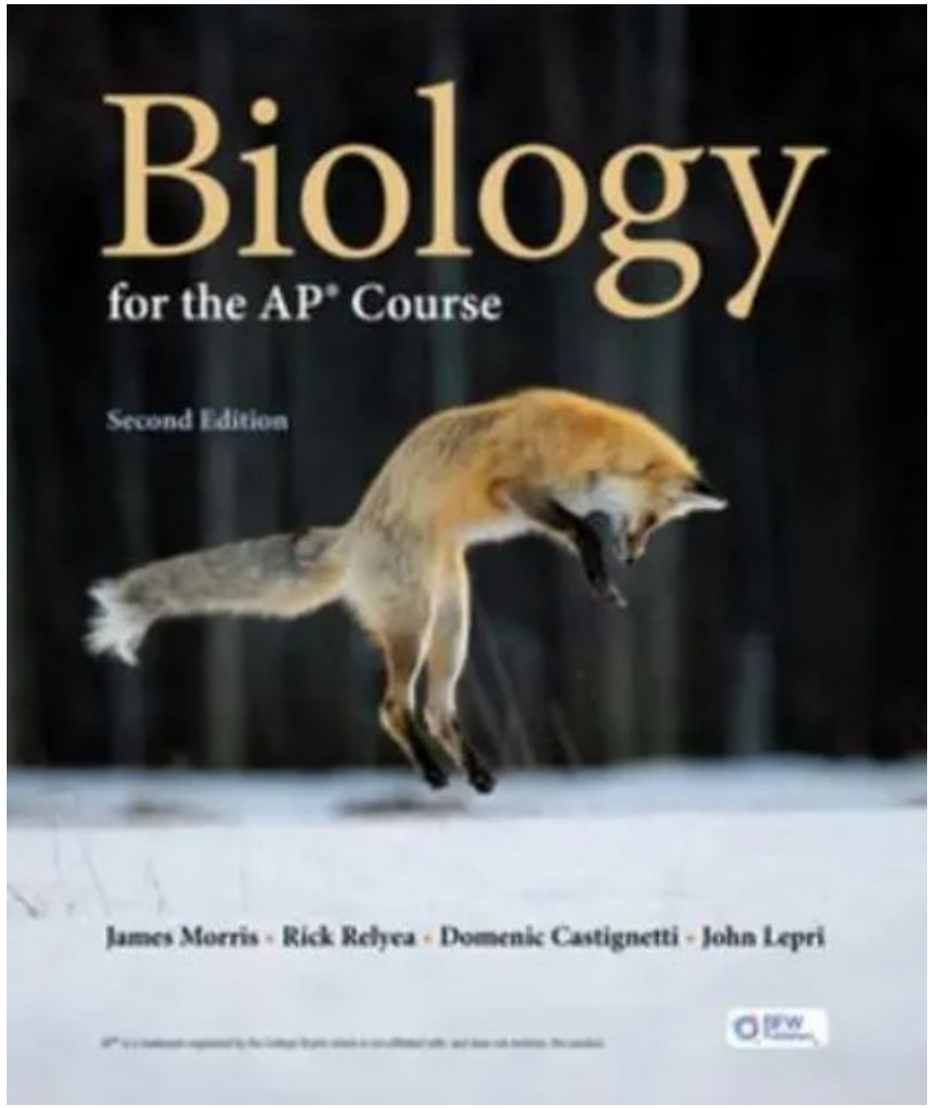


Biology: 14th Edition
(Mader, et al. 2022)

Recommendation

We recommend that the division adopt and purchase:

- ***Biology for the AP Course*** (Morris, et al.., 2rd edition, 2026)



Rationale

- Strongly aligned with College Board curriculum and examination.
- Received the highest score of all reviewed textbooks from most committee members, especially regarding student accessibility and overall usability.
  - Received the highest score from all committee members on *AP Style Assessment Quality* and a nearly perfect score from everyone on *Real World Content and Applications*
- Text is accessible and approachable and avoids overly dense jargon
- Specific alignment with the AP Course, the sequence of units, and the inclusion of relevant visuals that clarify complex, abstract concepts.

Rationale Continued…

- Many school divisions in the country and in the state of Virginia already use this text (or an earlier edition of this text)
- **Districts in Virginia include:**
  - Alexandria
  - Fredericksburg
  - King George
  - Prince William
  - Montgomery
  - Orange
  - Washington
  - York County

Quotes From Another District:

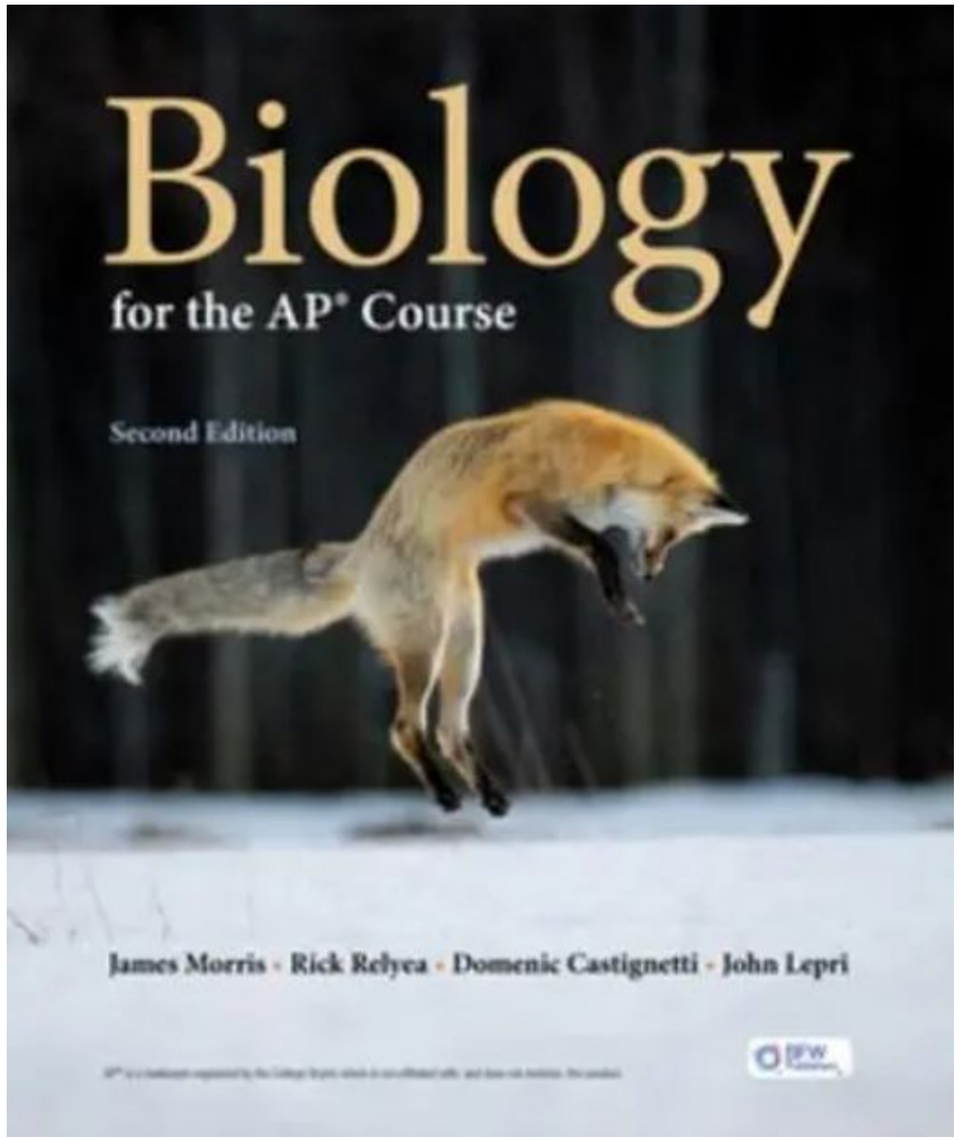
“ I am a big fan of this textbook. It covers all AP topics in sufficient detail and is easy for students to follow along and understand. It has great resources and practice questions built into the textbook for students to follow. The online version is also a great resource for students, and easy to manage for teachers.”

-Larose Hailey (East Montgomery High School)

Anticipated Cost

- CHS has two sections of this course with a possible maximum of **50 enrolled students**.

- The quote for 50 student edition textbooks, 1 teacher edition manual, and their online hub of teacher resources for the course for the teacher ***is pending (details will be added before the meeting)***.



Next Steps

- **Dec 2026: *Initial School Board Discussion***
  - Adoption committee's official recommendation is given to the School Board for approval
- **Dec-Jan 2026: *Community Review***
  - Committee's recommended textbook is shared with public for public comment.
  - Second choice textbook is also shared for public comment.
- **Jan 2026: *School Board Approval and Purchase***
  - If approved by school board, CHS moves forward with adoption of textbook and the purchase order for the 2026-2027 school year.

Thank You

Contact Information: Chris Chamberlin

chambec1@charlottesvilleschools.org