

Below outlines the process followed to select the Psychology textbook “Thinking about Psychology” 4th edition, as our new AUSD Psychology textbook.

The first meeting of the Psychology Adoption Committee was held on February 8, 2022. During this meeting the team discussed the process and timelines for textbook adoptions. The committee also reviewed the adoption rubric, and process to select textbooks that would be piloted during the 2022-2023 school year. The rubric for the textbook selection can be found [HERE](#)

The selection of publishers for high school Psychology textbooks that met the criteria outlined in the adoption rubric was limited. The adoption team selected two publishers for presentations. Savass/Pearson presented one textbook, *Psychology*, 3rd Edition, and Bedford, Freeman, and Worth (BFW) presented three textbooks; *Psychology for AP*, *Thinking about Psychology 4th edition*, and *Psychology In Everyday Life and Psychology*. The adoption committee of Psychology teachers chose to pilot *Thinking about Psychology 4th edition* with the online platform Launch Pad. The Launch pad contains the online version of the textbook with other features that are outlined below.

The work of the Psychology Adoption Committees and adoption process was made public in May of 2022, through the Curriculum Advisory Session. During this meeting we outlined the process of textbook adoption for the new Psychology textbook, and publishers who make presentations. In June of 2022, the Psychology Adoption Committee decided to Pilot *Thinking About Psychology 4th Edition* (BFW)

In the September of 2022, three AUSD psychology teachers were trained on *Thinking About Psychology*, and the online platform Launchpad. They piloted the curriculum through February of 2023, and the teachers determined they would like to adopt this curriculum. Below is a report from the teachers

The book itself is really accessible to a variety of student skill levels. The organization of the book is helpful for several reasons. It is split into Domains, which helps to create coherent units including multiple topics. Each topic has its own shorter Module within the Domain. It allows teachers to modify units based on the amount of time available. For example, Domain 3 is Development and Learning and contains eight Modules:

- Prenatal & Childhood Development
- Adolescence
- Adulthood & Aging
- Language Development

- Classical Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning
- Observational Learning

We taught Development in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Break (three modules), did a short unit on just Adolescence when we returned in January, and are currently doing Learning & Conditioning with the last three modules.

Each module is split into sections based on the learning goal of each topic. The book contains a lot of helpful figures, graphs and photos to bring the content to life. All sections include some practical or real life application of the content, and there are also features for Positive Psychology, which promotes health, happiness, mindfulness, etc.

The online platform, LaunchPad, has a lot of features in addition to the eBook and quizzes. Two favorite interactive features are PsychSim & How Would You Know. PsychSim allows students to simulate psychological experiments in five to ten minutes. For example, this week, they conditioned Pavlov's dogs to salivate in response to a bell. The interactive videos present a lot of content alongside the experiments. How Would You Know? Students are posed a research question and they go through Designing the experiment, figuring out how to Measure what data, Interpreting the data, a Conclusion and finally a Quiz. At each stage they are given options, for instance what type of research would a psychologist do to answer this question: Case Study, Observation or Experiment, and then the student chooses and submits their answer, and the next slide tells them if they chose correctly or not and why and offers a short video to reteach the concept if they want further clarification. There are others as well, and these are all assigned, done and graded on LaunchPad

The AUSD Psychology Adoption Committee is proposing a 5-year adoption of the textbook "Thinking about Psychology" along with the online platform Launchpad.