

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Textbooks and Instructional Materials	Descriptor Code: 4.400	Issued Date: 12/14/20
		Rescinds: IFA, IFAA, 4.401	Issued: 10/11/99; 07/08/13; 11/09/15

General

All classrooms shall be equipped with the textbooks and instructional materials needed to provide quality learning experiences for students in accordance with state law.¹ The Board shall provide a wide range of textbooks and instructional materials that cover all levels of difficulty, generate critical thinking, and support the educational programs.

SELECTION²

The responsibility to select textbooks and instructional materials, as recommended by the State Textbook Commission, rests with the local textbook selection committees, subject to approval by the Board. Use of textbooks and instructional materials not on the list approved by the State Textbook Commission is permissible if the Board submits a waiver to the State Board of Education and such waiver is approved.

The Director of Schools shall establish a procedure for providing citizens of the community with an opportunity to examine proposed textbooks and instructional materials prior to their final adoption,³ including public notice of the time and location at which textbooks and instructional materials may be examined. Once approved by the Board, the Director of Schools shall post the list of all approved textbooks and instructional materials on the school district's website and send a copy of the list to the Commissioner of Education.²

DISTRIBUTION

The Director of Schools shall designate an employee to be responsible for the purchase and distribution of textbooks and instructional materials in each school. Students shall receive these items at no cost.

CARE OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS⁴

Textbooks and instructional materials are property of the Board and shall be returned at the end of the school year, upon completion of the course, or upon withdrawal from a course or school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are to sign an agreement stating they shall be responsible for the textbooks and instructional materials received and used by their children. The Director of Schools shall be responsible for developing an administrative procedure regarding the replacement of lost or damaged textbooks and instructional materials.

REVIEW OF TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS³

A list of textbooks and instructional materials shall be revised annually by principals under the direction of the Director of Schools.

Upon request, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have the ability to inspect any textbooks and instructional materials including, but not limited to, teaching materials, handouts, and tests that are developed by and graded by their child’s teacher.

The Director of Schools shall develop procedures for the inspection of materials and distribute these materials to each principal.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-2207; TCA 49-2-203(a)(3)
2. TCA 49-6-2207(c), (e), (f); TCA 49-6-2202(d); TRR/MS 0520-01-18-.02
3. 20 USCA § 1232h(a); TCA 49-6-7003
4. TCA 49-3-310(1)(B); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.16(2)

Cross Reference

- Surplus Property Sales 2.403
- Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Textbooks 4.403
- Controversial Materials 4.801
- Student Fees and Fines 6.709