

1. What is the definition of textbook?

A textbook is any book or a book substitute, including hard-covered or paperback books, workbooks designed to be written in and used up, certain newspapers and news magazines and manuals which a pupil is required to use as a text or a text-substitute in a particular class or program as a primary source of study material intended to implement a major part of a State or local curriculum. Books used in support of a Whole Language program are eligible under this program. Sheet music is eligible provided it is used to implement part of a state or local curriculum in music.

Pursuant to Sections 207 and 701(2) of the Education Law as amended by Chapter 405 of the Laws of 1999, textbooks include courseware or other content-based instructional materials in electronic format, which means any instructional medium that provides specific nonsectarian educational content to students via a computer or other electronic system and is required as a primary source of study material intended to implement a major part of a state or local curriculum.

2. What materials are excluded under the textbook loan law?

Reference materials - encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, and general and special dictionaries, except that dictionaries individually assigned to all pupils in a particular class or program as a textbook substitute are considered as textbooks.

Supplementary materials - supplementary textbooks, novels, and other fiction, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials normally housed in the school library or instructional materials center for short-term use by pupils.

Other materials - texts and testing materials, teachers' editions of textbooks, review books, and materials in kit form.

3. Can the purchase of novels and fictions be eligible for aid?

Generally, novels and fictions are not aidable, however, it maybe aidable if a pupil is required to use such as a text or text-substitute in a particular class or program as a primary source of study material intended to implement a major part of a State curriculum or State-approved local

curriculum. For example, all 10th graders are required to read Hamlet this year as part of their English class. For the purpose of claiming textbook aid, the cost of purchasing Hamlet for all 10th graders is eligible for aid. However, it will not be eligible for textbook aid if Hamlet is not a required reading and the school is ordering it for the library or just to have some available in the classroom to lend to students.

4. Which newspapers and news magazines can be part of the textbook loan program?

Those newspapers and magazines which meet all the following criteria can be purchased and loaned as part of the textbook loan program:

- It must have a general circulation and be printed and distributed biweekly.
- It must have a paid circulation within the school district.
- It must be entered with the U.S. Postal Service as second-class matter.
- It must be made available to schools on the date of publication at a discount of not less than 33 1/3 % from the regular price.
- The publisher must regularly supply study guides without charge.

5. May books be ordered which are authored by clergy or religious organizations?

Yes. Authorship by a member of the clergy alone does not exclude the book. The determining factor is that the content is secular in nature. Textbooks containing an imprimatur may not be ordered.