
**Preliminary List of Textbooks for
Cycle V/Section V: Reading K-8**

The Background:

The State Textbook Commission is legally charged with the responsibility of preparing “a list of standard editions of textbooks for approval by the State Board of Education for the use in the public schools of the state.” (TCA 49-6-2202 (a)) The law also provides that the Commission “may appoint an advisory panel of expert teachers in each subject area or grade level to advise the Commission on book selections.” (TCA 49-6-2201 (j))

In the March 2012, meeting of the Commission, a report recommending the utilization of such a panel was accepted. The review is to be conducted under the following parameters:

- That no arbitrary number of titles to be listed for a category be established.
- That each title be measured against the criteria specified for the category for which it was bid without any effort to provide an overall ranking of books in the category.
- That the present practice of listing some titles as “alternative level texts” be continued, with the Invitation to Bid to include a specific call for books for this category.
- That the listing of books be based upon quality of content and correlation to the course content approved by the State Board of Education, correlation to national standards when such standards are available, readability (as determined by the professional judgment of expert teachers) and physical characteristics, including compliance with Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks.

A cadre of teachers is reviewing the textbooks bid on the abstract attached. A team assembled by the State Department of Education gave these teachers orientation on the review process, state and national curriculum standards and current research in teaching their discipline. Intensive training was given relating to the Common Core Standards. The orientation session was held in conjunction with the publishers’ hearings on June 11-13. The teachers conduct independent reviews during the month of July and meet the last week of July to compile committee reports for the books submitted. These reports will be disseminated to the Commission members and the respective publishers, who have the opportunity to respond to them at the hearings on September 17-18. Some Commission members also independently review books and/or use volunteers in the school systems with which they are affiliated to review

the books. The Commission will meet on October 8 and formulate the recommended list. The Official List of Textbooks for Section V will then be presented to the State Board of Education at its October 19, 2012 meeting for final approval.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of the list of textbooks for Cycle V/Section V: Reading K-8 on first reading. SBE staff concurs with the recommendation.