

Tennessee Textbook Adoption: Roles & Responsibilities



Tennessee General Assembly

- Adopts legislation related to the adoption of textbooks and instructional materials for K–12 public schools
- Adopted legislation that created the Textbook Commission
- Speakers of the senate and house each appoint three members of the commission

Governor

- Appoints three members of the commission

State Board of Education

- Approves the state list of textbooks and instructional materials after receiving recommendations from the commission
- Has the power to prescribe the use of textbooks and other instructional materials, based on recommendations of the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission
- May adopt policies, formulas, and guidelines for the funding of all requirements of textbooks and instructional materials
- Reviews and approves plans submitted by publishers to the department to correct all factual and editing errors found in a textbooks or instructional materials, at the publisher's expense

State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission

- Prepares and recommends a list of standard edition textbooks for approval by the SBE for use in the public schools of the state. Publishes list of state approved textbooks
- Develops rules for the bidding and contracting of textbook and instructional materials programs
- Oversees the review of programs bid against the education standards approved by the State Board of Education
- Establishes contracts with publishers
- Approves the process and time frame for state review of textbooks and instructional materials
- May adopt physical standards and specifications that assure suitable durability of the textbooks
- The chair of the commission may appoint members to state advisory panels and convene panels

State Textbook Advisory Panels

- Advises the commission on textbook and instructional materials selections

Tennessee Department of Education

- Provides administrative assistance to the commission and maintains the Textbook Services website
- Provides training to new commission members and state advisory panelists
- Facilitates public access to, and ability to comment on, textbooks and instructional materials bid for state approval
- Notifies publishers of the existence of factual and editing errors in textbooks and instructional materials, and receives corrective action plans from publishers

School Districts

- Solely authorized and required to adopt textbooks and instructional materials to be used in the public schools of their school districts from the list of textbooks and instructional materials listed for adoption by the commission
- May submit waivers to the commissioner to adopt textbooks and instructional materials not on the state approved list
- Creates and appoints members to local review committees
- May make textbooks and instructional materials available for public comment during the local process
- Director shall forward a copy of the recorded adoption to the commissioner and shall post on the district's website the list of all books adopted