
State Approved Textbooks - Section B (Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; STEM, Health Science; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Architecture and Construction)

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission has prepared a preliminary list of textbooks and instructional resources for Section B (Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; STEM, Health Science; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Architecture and Construction).

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(9) states that it is the duty of the board, and the board 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, for the various subjects taught or used in conjunction with the public schools.” T.C.A. § 49-6-2202(a) requires the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission to prepare “a list of standard editions of textbooks and instructional materials for approval by the State Board of Education for the use in the public schools of the state.” The law also provides that the commission, “through its chair, may appoint an advisory panel of expert teachers and other experts in each subject area or grade level to advise the commission on textbook and instructional material selections.” [T.C.A. § 49-6-2201(n)(1)(a)]

The chair of the commission led the advisory panel application review on February 19, 2016. In the April 11, 2016 meeting, the commission recognized an advisory panel consisting of sixteen teachers to provide feedback to the commission on textbooks and instructional materials for Section B.

The panelists are conducting independent reviews during the months of June, July, and August. The section I reviews were submitted June 8, 2016 and the final reviews are due on August 23, 2016. These reports will be disseminated to the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission members, the respective publishers, and others as designated by the Process for Public Review of Textbooks in Tennessee department policy. The commission will meet on September 15, 2016 to review the recommendations from the panel, hear publishers’ final responses to the panel reviews, and consider any public comment, either written or verbal. The commission will meet on September 26, 2016 to determine which textbooks and instructional materials to recommend to the board for final approval.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.