
List of State Approved Textbooks - Section A (Advanced Manufacturing, Human Services, Information Technology, and Education and Training)

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission has prepared a preliminary list of textbooks and instructional resources for Section A (Advanced Manufacturing, Human Services, Information Technology, and Education and Training).

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 approved the advisory panel on February 11, 2015 after a thorough review of applications. In the April 20, 2015 meeting, the Commission recognized an advisory panel consisting of fifteen teachers to provide feedback to the Commission on Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Section A. In the April 20, 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the screening instruments that the advisory panelists will use. The review is to be conducted under the following parameters:

- That no arbitrary number of titles 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 listing of books be based upon quality of content and correlation to the course content approved by the State Board of Education, coherence and usability (as determined by the professional judgment of expert teachers) and physical characteristics, including compliance with Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks.

On May 2-3, 2015, the Department of Education provided training to the advisory panelists on the review process, Tennessee State Standards and non-negotiable criteria for textbooks and instructional materials. On May 3, publishers were given the opportunity to present their materials to the panelists.

The panelists will conduct independent reviews during the months of June, July, and August and will submit their reviews on June 9 (Section 1 Review) and August 24 (Final Review). 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 of Education policy. The commission will meet on September 17-18, 2015 to

review the recommendations from the panels, hear publisher's final responses to the panel reviews, and hear any public comment, either written or verbal. The commission will meet on September 28, 2015 to determine which textbooks and instructional materials to recommend to the board for approval.

For the first time, samples of all textbooks and instructional materials bid for Section A are available for review online in digital format. Links and instructions on how to access the materials are posted on the Online Samples page of the Department of Education's Textbook Services website:

<http://www.tn.gov/education/topic/textbook-online-samples>. Printed samples of the textbooks and instructional materials bid are available for public review and comment at the James E. Walker Library on the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) campus. The public may submit their comments using the Public Comment Form available on the textbook services website and at MTSU. Public comment submission deadlines are June 8, 2015 and August 7, 2015. Public comments will be shared with the state advisory panelists, publishers, commission, school districts, the board, and the Tennessee General Assembly. Members of the public who submit comments will be notified when their comments have been made available. Members of the public may also request to speak at the meetings of the commission by completing the form on the textbook services website.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

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.