
Textbook Substitutions

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Material Quality Commission has prepared a recommended list of textbook substitutions to be added as official textbooks and instructional materials.

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.” The State Textbook and Instructional Material Quality Commission is tasked with 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” and recommending a list of textbook substitutions to the board for approval [Textbook Commission Rule 0520-5-1-.06; T.C.A. § 49-6-2202(a)].

All publishers with textbooks and instructional materials on any official list of textbooks approved by the Board may submit substitution requests on an annual basis. Textbook substitutions contain content revisions made since the previous official listing of the book. Substitutions must be sold at the same price as the book originally listed and can be used with the book originally listed. When these books are offered for substitution, the same sampling and bidding procedures are followed as in the case of the original texts which they are to replace, except that no additional bond or contract is required. Samples of each book are submitted by the publishing company representatives to the Commission, together with a brief setting forth in detail the differences between the book originally listed and the newer book. [Textbook Commission Rule 0520-5-1-.06]

Publishers were notified that the substitution process opened on December 18, 2014. All substitution requests were received by February 9, 2015. Two publishers submitted substitution requests, McGraw Hill Publishing and Cengage Learning, for a total of six individual substitution requests.

State law also provides that the Commission “through its chair, may recruit and 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)]. Former Social Studies Advisory Panel members were selected to complete the reviews for the social studies textbook substitutions. These individuals completed the initial review of the textbooks, and they used the same screening instrument to review the substitutions.

The Commission met on April 20, 2015 and approved the list of textbooks and instructional materials substitutions and recommended the attached substitutions for inclusion on the Official List of Textbooks.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.