
List of State Approved Textbooks - Section C (Science; PE/Wellness & Health; Fine Arts; CTE Arts, A/V Technology & Communication and Anatomy & Physiology)

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission has prepared a preliminary list of textbooks and instructional resources for Section C (Science; PE/Wellness & Health; Fine Arts (Art, Music, Theatre Arts, Dance, and Media Arts); CTE Arts, A/V Technology & Communication, and Anatomy & Physiology).

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 9, 2017, after a thorough review of applications. In the March 27, 2017 meeting, the Commission recognized an advisory panel consisting of fifty-five teachers to provide feedback to the Commission on Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Section C. In the March 27, 2017 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 April 29-30, 2017, 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 April 30, 2017, 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 8, 2017 (Section 1 Review) and August 24, 2017 (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 18, 2017, and October 2, 2017, 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. In addition, at the October 2, 2017 meeting, the commission will determine which textbooks and instructional materials to recommend to the board for approval.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department 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.