IJJ Textbook Selection and Adoption

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Purpose: To establish the board's vision and basic structure for the selection and adoption of textbooks to be used by the district.

In adopting textbooks for use in the school system district, the board must carefully consider the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of students, parents/legal guardians and teachers instructional staff.

The board's first commitment in the selection and adoption of textbooks will be the preservation of the students' right to learn in an atmosphere of academic freedom. The board supports the rights of teachers instructional staff to exercise professional judgement in their work; but, at the same time, will require teachers them to balance this right with an awareness of their responsibility to meet the district's educational goals and objectives, as well as standards established by state law.

The board recognizes the rights of parents/legal guardians to influence the education of their children. The board will not, however, allow the wishes of any individual to infringe upon the rights of the majority of the students in any class.

Selection process

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for selecting and recommending to the board for adoption all basic textbooks to be used in the district's program of education.

The superintendent or his/her designee will recommend textbooks in specific curriculum areas based upon the recommendation of textbook committees composed of teachers, department chairs instructional staff, supervisors, directors, and principals. The committee may seek comments from interested parents/legal guardians, community partners members, and students.

The committees will select texts from those on the approved list of the South Carolina Department of Education. The content of these textbooks will reflect the substance and level of performance outlined in grade specific educational standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

The district may request that the SBE add a textbook or series to the approved list under the following circumstances:

- The textbook or series must be one that was reviewed by the state board, but not adopted.

- The boards of five or more districts may request in writing an addition to the approved state board list.
The boards of two or more districts with a combined student population of 25,000 or more may request in writing an addition to the approved state board list.

The district will set up procedures for principals and teachers instructional staff to request these additions.

Management

The district will comply with the state textbook management system for the barcoding, distributing, collecting, securing, storing, and long-term care of state-owned textbooks and other instructional materials.

Each school will designate a textbook coordinator responsible for conducting inventories of state-owned materials, reporting losses to the state, collecting fees from students, and requesting replacement materials from the textbook depository.

Schools will be responsible for articulating procedures for the care and return of state-owned textbooks and other instructional materials to students, parents/legal guardians, and teachers instructional staff.

Textbooks will be selected based upon the recommendation of textbook committees composed of teachers, department chairs, supervisors, directors and principals. The committee may seek comments from interested parents, community members and students.

Beginning classes

Schools may not begin a course if textbooks or other materials are not available on the first day of class or if the delivery date is after the first two weeks of classes unless the board determines the class should be offered.

Adopted 4/25/78; Revised 4/14/98, 7/1/03

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
Section 59-5-60(7) - General powers of state board.
Section 59-31-30 - Use of uniform series of textbooks; exceptions.
Section 59-31-40 - Adoption of new books.
Section 59-31-45 - Selection of textbooks.
Section 59-31-70 - Purchase of textbooks.
Section 59-31-75 - Textbooks required.
State Board of Education Regulations:
R-43-251 - Selection and adoption of textbooks.
R-43-70 - Textbook adoption.