
Preliminary List of Mathematics Textbooks, Section 1

The Background:

The State Textbook Commission has prepared a preliminary list of mathematics textbooks. The list is ready for review by the State Board of Education.

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 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 Commission to prepare “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.” The law also provides that the Commission “may appoint an advisory panel of expert teachers in each subject area or grade level to advise the Commission on book selections.” [T.C.A. § 49-6-2201 (j)].

In the April 9, 2014, meeting of the Commission, the Commission approved an advisory panel consisting of 38 teachers to provide feedback to the Commission on Section 1, Math Textbooks bid for state adoption. The Commission also approved the review rubric that the advisory panelists will use. The review is to be conducted under the following parameters:

- That no arbitrary number of titles to be listed 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 present practice of listing some titles as “alternative level texts” be continued, with the Invitation to Bid to include a specific call for books for this 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 3-4, the Tennessee Department of Education provided training to the panelists on the review process, state standards and non-negotiable criteria (focus and rigor) for mathematics textbook. On May 9-10, publishers were given the opportunity to give a presentation on their materials to the panelists.

The panelists will conduct independent reviews during the month of June, July, and August and come together the weeks of June 16, 2014, and August 23-24, 2014, to compile committee reports for the books submitted. These reports will be disseminated to the Textbook Commission members, and the respective publishers who will respond to them at the hearings on August 23-24, 2014. The Commission will meet on September 22 to review the recommendations from the panels, hear publisher's final responses to the panel reviews, and prepare a list of textbooks to recommend to the State Board of Education for approval.

The samples of the math textbooks bid for adoption are available for public review and comment at the ten collection sites across the state. Members of the public can also sign-up to speak at the August state panel meeting and the September Commission meeting.

The Recommendation:

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