

State Approved Textbooks: Section B (Mathematics)

The Background:

The State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission has prepared a preliminary list of textbooks and instructional resources for Section B (Mathematics). 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 led the advisory panel application review between March 21, 2022, and July 25, 2022, meeting. During the March 21st meeting, the Commission recognized an advisory panel consisting of math educators that were scored by both the Department and the Commission. They also approved the scoring rubric for materials focusing on three categories. First, publishers had to provide TN Standards Alignment guides, second materials had to cover 100% of the state standards to align with Chapter 990 of the Public Acts of 2022, and materials had to meet 80% of the quality indicators outlined by the Commission.

The panelists conducted independent reviews between April 22nd and June 24, 2022. These reports were disseminated to the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission members during the July 25th meeting. Once the Commission voted to approve the preliminary list it was sent to the State Board for review and feedback was sent to the respective publishers. The Commission will meet on September 22, 2022, to hear publishers’ appeals to the panel reviews, and consider any public comment, either written or verbal.

The Commission will vote on the final items on the list on September 22, 2022, to determine which textbooks and instructional materials to recommend to the board for final approval, and once the Board approved the final list of items, the list will be shared with the Commission.

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.