

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: F.

Date: March 18, 2010

Topic: Final Review of State Adoption of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for K-12 History and Social Science

Presenter: Dr. Beverly Thurston, History and Social Science, International Education, and Textbook Coordinator

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: _____

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action date January 14, 2010 action First review of State Adoption of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for K-12 History and Social Science

Background Information:

The Board of Education's authority for approving textbooks and other instructional materials is prescribed in the Virginia Constitution and in the *Code of Virginia*. The Board of Education's *Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption* specify the types of materials that may be adopted.

Virginia Constitution; Art. VIII § 5 (d)

It [the Board of Education] shall have authority to approve textbooks and instructional aids and materials for use in courses in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Code of Virginia, §22.1-238

§ 22.1-238. Approval of textbooks.

A. The Board of Education shall have the authority to approve textbooks suitable for use in the public schools and shall have authority to approve instructional aids and materials for use in the public schools. The Board shall publish a list of all approved textbooks on its website and shall list the publisher and the current lowest wholesale price of such textbooks.

B. Any school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

C. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "textbooks" means print or electronic media for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course.

Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption 8 VAC 20-220-30

Only those materials which are designed to provide basic support for the instructional program of a particular content area at an appropriate level will be adopted.

“Basal textbook” or “basal instructional materials” are terms often used to describe the types of materials described in 8 VAC 20-220-30. These materials may be print and/or electronic.

Summary of Major Elements

In 1991, the Board of Education adopted a resolution delegating its authority for textbook adoption to the superintendent of public instruction. Since 1995, the Department of Education has worked with state committees to review and evaluate publishers’ textbook submissions primarily with respect to Standards of Learning (SOL) correlation. Following each review, the Department of Education provided school divisions with a list of the instructional materials submitted and a profile of each submission that included the degree of Standards of Learning correlation. Once approved by the Board, the list was provided to school divisions.

At its meeting on March 27, 2002, the Board of Education adopted a resolution to approve textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with the *Constitution of Virginia*, Art. VIII 5(d). This action indicated that beginning with future adoptions, the Department of Education would recommend and the Board of Education would adopt an approved list of basal textbooks and instructional materials for subjects being reviewed.

Local school boards may adopt textbooks that are not on the Board-approved list. In accordance with the *Code of Virginia*, §22.1-238, any school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

The Board of Education’s *Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption* (8 VAC 20-220-10 et seq and 8 VAC 20-230-10 et seq) prescribe procedures to be followed in state and local adoption processes and the kinds of materials that may be adopted. Basal textbooks or instructional materials are terms often used to describe the types of materials described in 8 VAC 20-220-30. These materials may be print and/or electronic.

The last history and social science textbook and instructional materials review was completed in 2003. On March 29, 2007, the Board of Education approved the new K-12 history and social science textbooks and instructional materials review schedule, and on September 26, 2007, the Board adopted its 2007-2012 Comprehensive Plan noting major policy decisions that included a timeline for Standards of Learning review and textbook adoption through 2015 for all subject areas. On February 19, 2009, the Board of Education authorized the Department to begin the process of the K-12 history and social science textbooks and instructional materials review.

In June 2009, committees of Virginia educators received history and social science textbook samples along with K-12 *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* textbook correlations from publishers. Members of these committees conducted individual analyses of the materials prior to meeting with the full committee. In July 2009, the committees convened in Richmond to reach consensus on their reviews of the submitted materials. The consensus evaluations were shared with publishers, and publishers were given an opportunity to respond to the committees' reviews and recommendations. Requests by publishers for reconsideration were examined carefully prior to the list being submitted to the Board of Education for first review. Attachment A contains a master list for all textbooks that were reviewed and recommended. Two textbooks by the Wright Group/McGraw-Hill, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., were not recommended as being adequately aligned with the *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* for two courses, United States History to 1865 and United States History: 1865 to the Present. The textbooks are: *American History 1 Before 1865* and *American History 2 After 1865*.

A 30-day public comment period began on January 15, 2010, immediately after the Board's first review of the list of materials. One comment was received in the public comment mailbox from a teacher who questioned the expense of purchasing new textbooks at this time. Other comments were received via e-mail. Of those, one comment encouraged textbook publishers to include contributions of African Americans in history, literature, and science books. The remainder of the e-mailed comments were made on behalf of the Virginia Jewish community. The Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Richmond, and the Greater Washington area and the Virginia Holocaust Museum partnered with the Institute for Curriculum Services to review selected textbooks and recommend changes to publishers that addressed quality, accuracy, and balance. The Hadassah Curriculum Watch committee in Charlottesville also reviewed selected textbooks for balanced, fair, and consistent treatment of different groups. All reviews by the Institute for Curriculum Services were sent to the appropriate publishers.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for final review and approve the attached list of textbooks and instructional materials recommended for state adoption.

Impact on Resources:

The Department of Education administers the state adoption process. This responsibility can be absorbed by the agency's existing resources at this time. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this process, other services will be impacted.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval, the Department of Education will publish the list of adopted textbooks and instructional materials on its Web site.

2009 Recommended History and Social Science Textbook and Instructional Materials

Course	Publisher	Title
Kindergarten	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our World Let's Go! (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Our World, Now and Long Ago (print)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia Hello World Flipchart (print)</i>
Grade One	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our World Then and Now (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: My Country, Yesterday and Today (print)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia All Together Complete Student Edition Set (Includes 4 units) (print)</i>
Grade Two	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our World Near and Far (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: People and Places, Then and Now (print)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia People and Places Complete Student Edition Set (Includes 4 units) (print)</i>
Grade Three	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our World Far and Wide (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: Exploring Your World, Past and Present (print)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia Exploring People, Places, and Cultures Student Edition (print)</i>

Course	Publisher	Title
Virginia Studies	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our Virginia Past and Present (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: Virginia Studies (print)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia Studies Student Edition (print)</i>
United States History to 1865	Five Ponds Press	<i>Our America to 1865 (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Journey, Early years (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Journey, Early Years (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States History, Beginnings to 1877, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States History, Beginnings to 1877, Virginia Interactive Online Edition (Contract length subscription)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: Virginia, United States History to 1865 (print)</i>
	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers	<i>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Virginia Social Studies: Virginia, United States History to 1865 (electronic)</i>
	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Macmillan McGraw-Hill Timelinks: Virginia The United States: The Early Years Student Edition (print)</i>
	Oxford University Press	<i>A History of US – Books 1-6 (print)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall America: History of Our Nation, Beginnings to 1865, Virginia Edition (print)</i>

Course	Publisher	Title
United States History: 1865 to Present	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Journey, Modern Times (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Journey, Modern Times (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States History, Civil War to the Present, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States History, Civil War to the Present, Virginia Interactive Online Edition (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Oxford University Press	<i>A History of US, Books 7-10 (print)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall America: History of Our Nation, 1865 to Present, Virginia Edition (print)</i>
Civics and Economics	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Civics Today (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Civics Today (online)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Civics in Practice: Principles of Government and Economics, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Civics in Practice: Principles of Government and Economics, Virginia Interactive Online Edition (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Virginia Civics and Economics (print)</i>

Course	Publisher	Title
World History and Geography to 1500 A.D.	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Glencoe World History: Early Ages (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Glencoe World History: Early Ages (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Ancient World History, Patterns of Interaction, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Ancient World History, Patterns of Interaction, Virginia Student Edition (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall World History, Volume 1, Virginia Edition (print)</i>
World History and Geography: 1500 A.D. to the Present	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Glencoe World History: Modern Times (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>Glencoe World History: Modern Times (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Modern World History, Patterns of Interaction, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal Modern World History, Patterns of Interaction, Virginia eEdition Online (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>

Course	Publisher	Title
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall World History, The Modern Era, Virginia Edition (print)</i>
World Geography	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>World Geography & Cultures (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>World Geography & Cultures (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>McDougal Littell World Geography, Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>McDougal Littell World Geography, eEdition Online (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
Virginia and United States History	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Vision (print)</i>
	Glencoe, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies	<i>The American Vision (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal The Americans, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal The Americans, Virginia Student eEdition Online (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt American Anthem, Student (print)</i>

Course	Publisher	Title
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt American Anthem, Interactive Online Edition (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall United States History, Survey, Virginia Edition (print)</i>
Virginia and United States Government	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States Government: Principles in Practice, Virginia Student Edition (print)</i>
	Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company	<i>Holt McDougal United States Government: Principles in Practice, Virginia ThinkCentral Student Access (Contract length subscription) (electronic)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Prentice Hall Magruder's American Government, with Virginia and United States Government (bundle)</i>
	Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall	<i>Pearson Foundation Series: American Government, with Virginia and United States Government (bundle)</i>