

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: E.

Date: February 19, 2009

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

Presenter: Dr. Beverly Thurston, History, Social Science, and International Education 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 _____ action _____

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 specifies 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

Since 1995, the Department of Education has worked with state committees to review and evaluate publishers’ 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. On March 29, 2007, the Board of Education approved the K-12 history and social science textbook and instructional materials review schedule, and on September 26, 2007, the Board adopted its 2007-2012 Comprehensive Plan noting major policy decisions that included textbook adoption.

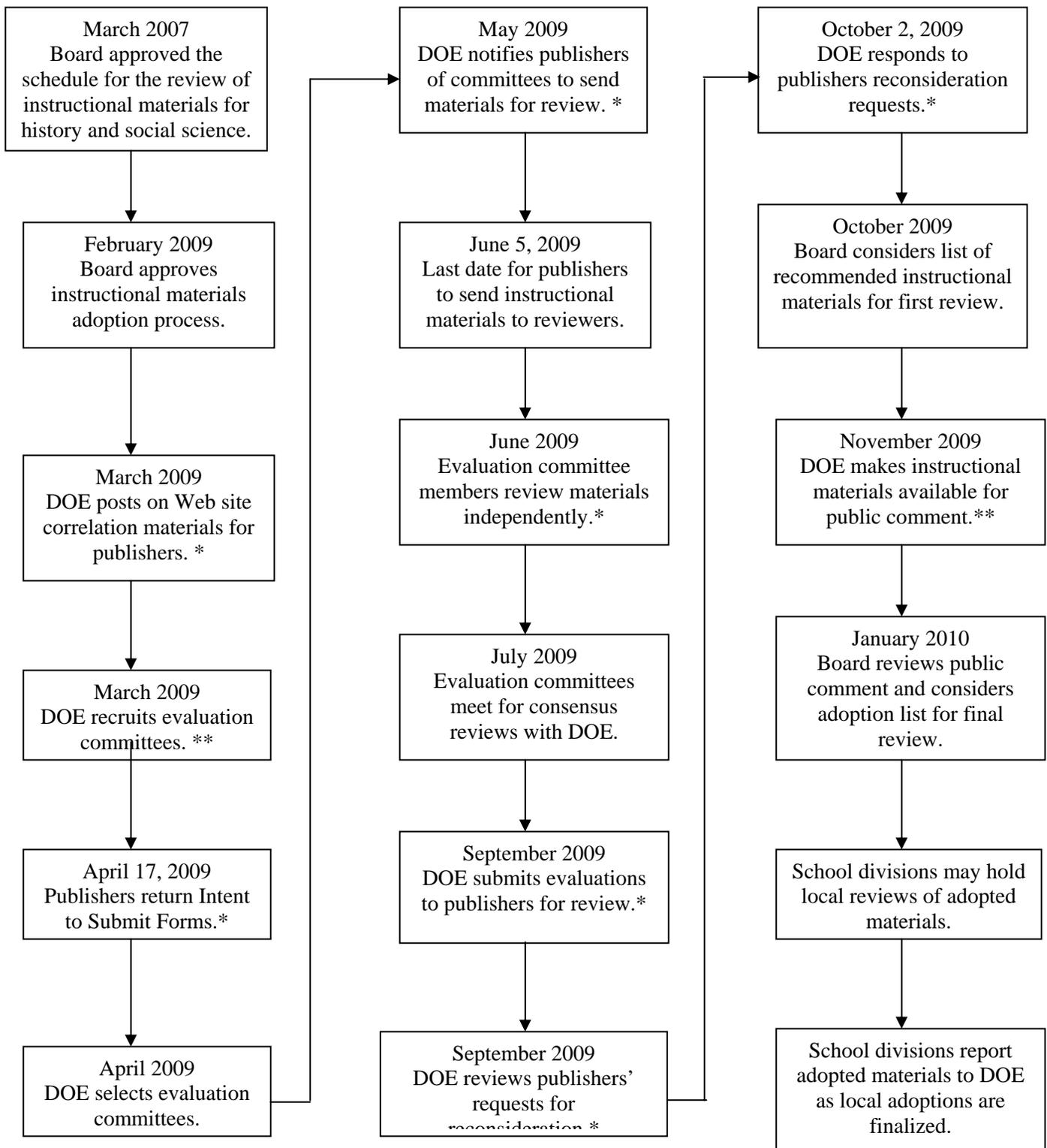
The importance of teachers using curricula and materials that are aligned to the *Standards of Learning* is a major factor contributing to student achievement on the standards. To ensure school divisions have access to textbooks and instructional materials that support the *Standards of Learning*, textbooks and instructional materials for K-12 history and social science are scheduled for adoption in 2009-2010. The Department will use an established review process and criteria to administer the state adoption process for the Board of Education. The Department will submit to the Board for approval a list of recommended materials. The attachment contains a proposed timeline for the process.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and grant approval for the Department of Education to proceed with the adoption of K-12 history and social science textbooks and instructional materials.

Impact on Resources: The agency’s existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time. School divisions would have the option of adopting K-12 history and social science textbooks and instructional materials for students.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Upon approval, the Department of Education will provide information to all interested parties according to the timeline described in Attachment A.

**2009 Adoption Process
History and Social Science Textbook and Instructional Materials Adoption**



* DOE communication via Internet or e-mail

**Superintendent's Memorandum