

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ G. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: January 10, 2008

**Topic:** Final Review of Proposed Schedule for the Adoption of Mathematics, English, Science, and Foreign Languages Textbooks and Instructional Materials

**Presenter:** Dr. Beverly M. 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**Previous Review/Action:**

No previous Board review/action

Previous review/action  
date November 29, 2007  
action Accepted for first review and public comment.

**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

The Board of Education shall 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. 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.

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.

**Summary of Major Elements:** During each recent textbook and instructional materials adoption, the Department of Education worked with a state committee to review and evaluate publishers' submissions with respect to correlation to the content of the *Standards of Learning* (SOL) and certain quality- and curriculum-related factors. Following each review, the Department of Education provided school divisions with a list of the adopted materials, which included detailed profiles of each adopted submission.

The importance of teachers using curricula and materials that are aligned to the *Standards of Learning* is a major factor contributing to student achievement in Virginia. Generally, state textbook adoption in a SOL subject area should be conducted shortly after the standards are revised if current materials have been on the state contract for at least six years.

It is anticipated that revised *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will be approved by the Board of Education by June 2009, and revised *English* (K-5 Reading and 6-12 English and Literature) and *Science Standards of Learning* will be approved by the Board of Education by June 2010. It is also anticipated that revised *Foreign Language Standards of Learning* will be approved by the Board of Education by June 2014. The Department proposes that textbooks and instructional materials for mathematics be scheduled for adoption in 2010-2011, and that textbooks and instructional materials for English and science be scheduled for adoption in 2011-2012. It is further proposed that textbooks and instructional materials for foreign languages be scheduled for adoption in 2014. Attachment A provides a chart that illustrates the proposed timeline for adopting mathematics, English, science, and foreign language textbooks and instructional materials in relationship to other key SOL processes and dates.

Using an established review process and criteria, the Department of Education will administer the state adoption process for the Board of Education. The Department will submit a list of recommended materials to the Board for approval.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for final review and approval the proposed mathematics, English, science, and foreign language textbook and instructional materials review schedule.

**Impact on Resources:** The approximate cost of each review is \$10,000. This cost is based on twenty reviewers for each textbook and instructional materials review and includes an incentive for each participant, lodging, meals, and travel expenses.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** The approved textbook adoption schedule will be announced via a Superintendent's Memorandum on January 25, 2008, and the adoption schedule will be posted on the textbook page of the Department's Web site on the same date.

**Textbook and Instructional Materials Adoption Schedule for Mathematics, English, Science, and Foreign Languages**  
**(Based on the seven-year revision cycle for the *Standards of Learning*)**  
**January 10, 2008**

<b>Adoption Area</b>	<b>Anticipated SOL Adoption</b>	<b>SOL Curriculum Framework Adoption</b>	<b>State Textbook/ Instructional Materials Review</b>	<b>Expiration of Existing Contracts</b>	<b>LEA Textbook/ Materials Review</b>	<b>New Contract Date</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	2009	2009	2010-2011	2011	2011	July 1, 2011
<b>English (K-5 Reading and 6-12 English and Literature)</b>	2010	2010	2011-2012	2010 K-5 Reading  2011 6-12 English and Literature	2012	July 1, 2012
<b>Science</b>	2010	2010	2011-2012	2010	2012	July 1, 2012
<b>Foreign Languages</b>	2014	Not applicable	2014-2015	2011	2015	July 1, 2015