

SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Trustees desires that district instructional materials, as a whole, present a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, accurately reflect and value society's diversity, stimulate thought, the exploration of ideas and intellectual exchanges, and enhance instructors' ability to educate all students through the use of multiple teaching strategies and technologies. The Board shall adopt instructional materials based on a determination that such materials are an effective learning resource to help students achieve grade-level competency and that the materials meet criteria specified in law. Textbooks, technology-based materials, and other educational materials shall be aligned with academic content standards and the district's curriculum to ensure that they effectively support the district's adopted courses of study.

The Board shall select instructional materials for use in grades K-8 that have been approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) or that have, during the district's review process, been determined to be aligned with the state academic content standards adopted pursuant to Education Code 60605 or the Common Core Standards adopted by SBE, which includes instructional minutes and English language arts that are aligned to Common Core Stated Standards. (Education Code 60200, 60210)

In selecting or adopting instructional materials, the Board shall consider the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee and/or an advisory committee established to review the materials.

The degree to which every student has sufficient access to standards-aligned instructional materials shall be included in the district's local control and accountability plan. (Education Code 52060)

Sufficiency of Instructional Materials *and* Public Hearing

The Board shall annually conduct one or more public hearings on the sufficiency of the district's instructional materials, including textbooks, technology-based materials, other educational materials, and tests. Technology-based materials include, but are not limited to, software programs, video disks, compact disks, optical disks, video and audio tapes, lesson plans, databases, and the electronic equipment required to make use of those materials by students and teachers as a learning resource. (Education Code 60010, 60119)

The hearing shall be held on or before the end of the eighth week from the first day students attend school for that year. (Education Code 60119)

The Board encourages participation by parents/guardians, teachers, interested community members, and bargaining unit leaders at the hearing. Ten days prior to the hearing, the Superintendent or designee shall post a notice in three public places within the district containing the time, place, and purpose of the hearing. The hearing shall not take place during or immediately following school hours. (Education Code 60119)

At the hearing(s), the Board shall determine, through a resolution, whether each student in each school, including each English learner, has sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials that are aligned to the state content standards adopted by SBE and are consistent with the content and cycles of the state's curriculum frameworks adopted by SBE in each of the following subjects: (Education Code 60119)

1. Mathematics
2. Science
3. History-Social Science

4. English language arts, including the English language development component of an adopted program
5. World Languages
6. Health

In making these determinations, the Board shall consider whether each student has sufficient textbooks or other instructional materials to use in class and to take home. This does not require that each student have two sets of materials. However, the materials shall not be considered sufficient if they are photocopied sheets from only a portion of a textbook or instructional materials copied to address a shortage. (Education Code 60119)

If materials are in a digital format, they shall be considered sufficient as long as each student, at a minimum, has and can access the same materials in the class and to take home as all other students in the same class or course in the district, and has the ability to use and access them at home. (Education Code 60119)

If the Board determines that there are insufficient textbooks or instructional materials, the Board shall, by resolution, provide information to classroom teachers and to the public setting forth, for each school in which an insufficiency exists, the percentage of students who lack sufficient standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials in each subject area and the reasons that each student does not have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials. The Board shall submit a copy of the resolution to the County Superintendent of Schools no later than three business days after the hearing. The Board shall take any action to ensure that each student has sufficient materials within two months of the beginning of the school year in which the determination is made. (Education Code 60119)

In addition, if the County Superintendent, in accordance with Education Code 1240, makes the district aware of a school that does not have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, the district shall take any action to ensure that each student has sufficient materials within two months of the beginning of the school year.

Prohibition Against Refusal to Approve or Prohibit the Use of Specified Instructional Materials

The use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be rejected or prohibited by the Board or district on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. (Education Code 243)

Complaints

Complaints concerning instructional materials shall be handled in accordance with Board Policy 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials, Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures, and or Administrative Regulation 1312.4 – Williams Complaint Procedures, as applicable.

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Review Process

The district's review process for evaluating instructional materials shall involve teachers in a substantial manner and shall encourage the participation of parents/guardians and community members in accordance with Education Code 60002. The review process may also involve administrators, other staff who have subject-matter expertise, and students as appropriate. The Superintendent or designee shall seek input from stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

If the district is considering the use of instructional materials for grades K-8 that have not been adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a majority of the participants in the district's review process are classroom teachers who are assigned to the subject area or grade level of the materials. (Education Code 60210)

The Superintendent or designee may establish an advisory committee to conduct the review of instructional materials.

The Superintendent or designee shall present to the Governing Board recommendations for instructional materials and documentation that supports the recommendations.

All recommended instructional materials shall be available for public inspection at the district office.

When possible, the district may pilot instructional materials in a representative sample of classrooms for a specified period of time during a school year, in order to determine the extent to which the materials support the district's curricular goals and academic standards, and accurately reflect and value society's diversity. Feedback from teachers piloting the materials shall be made available to the Board before the materials are adopted.

Criteria for Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

In recommending textbooks or other instructional materials for adoption by the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that such materials:

1. Are aligned to the content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) and consistent with the content and cycles of the curriculum framework adopted by SBE

For grades K-8, only instructional materials on the list of materials adopted by the SBE and/or other instructional materials that have not been adopted by the SBE but are aligned with the state academic content standards or the Common Core State Standards may be recommended for selection. (Education Code 60200, 60210)

2. Do not reflect adversely upon persons because of any characteristic specified in law and Board Policy 0410 – Nondiscrimination in Programs and Activities, nor contain any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law (Education Code 51501, 60044)
3. To the satisfaction of the Board, are accurate, objective, current, and suited to the differing needs and comprehension of district students at their respective grade levels (Education Code 60045)
4. With the exception of literature and trade books, use proper grammar and spelling (Education Code 60045)

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AR 6161.1(b)

5. Do not expose students to a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo unless the Board makes a specific finding that the use is appropriate based on one of the following: (Education Code 60048, 60200)
 - a. The commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo is used in text for an educational purpose as defined in guidelines or frameworks adopted by the SBE.
 - b. The appearance of a commercial brand name, product, or corporate or company logo in an illustration is incidental to the general nature of the illustration.
6. Meet the requirements of Education Code 60040-60043 for specific subject content, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Accurately portraying society's cultural and racial diversity, including:
 - i. The contributions of all genders in all types of roles, including professional, vocational, and executive roles
 - ii. The role and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino American's Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic groups to the total development of California and the United States
 - iii. The role and contributions of the entrepreneur and labor in the total development of California and the United States
 - b. Accurately portraying humanity's place in ecological systems and the necessity for the protection of the environment
 - c. Accurately portraying the effects on the human system of the use of tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics, and restricted dangerous drugs as defined in Health and Safety Code 11032, and other dangerous substances
 - d. Encouraging thrift, fire prevention, and the humane treatment of animals and people
 - e. Requiring, when appropriate to the comprehension of students, that textbooks for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution
7. Support the district's adopted courses of study and curricular goals, including the district's local control and accountability plan
8. Contribute to a comprehensive, balanced curriculum
9. Demonstrate reliable quality of scholarship as evidenced by:
 - a. Accurate, up-to-date, and well-documented information
 - b. Objective presentation of diverse viewpoints
 - c. Clear, concise writing and appropriate vocabulary

- d. Thorough treatment of subject matter
- 10. Provide for a wide range of materials at all levels of difficulty, with appeal to students of varied interests, abilities, and developmental levels
- 11. Stimulate discussion of contemporary issues, exploration of ideas, and intellectual exchanges, and improve students' thinking and decision-making skills
- 12. As appropriate, have corresponding versions available in languages other than English
- 13. Include high-quality teacher's guides
- 14. When available, include options for lighter weight materials, including materials in digital format, in order to help minimize any injury to students by the combined weight of instructional materials

In addition to meeting the above criteria as applicable, technology-based materials shall:

- 1. Be both available and comparable to other, equivalent instructional materials (Education Code 60052)
- 2. Be accessible to all students, including economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners
- 3. Protect the privacy of student data

Conflict of Interest

To ensure integrity in the evaluation and selection of instructional materials, individuals who are participating in the evaluation of instructional materials and are not otherwise designated in the district's conflict of interest code shall sign a disclosure statement indicating that they:

- 1. Will not accept any emolument, money, or other valuable thing or inducement to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional material (Education Code 60072)

Sample copies of instructional materials are excepted from this prohibition (Education Code 60075)

- 2. Are not employed by nor receive compensation from the publisher or supplier of the instructional materials or any person, firm, organization, subsidiary, or controlling entity representing it
- 3. Do not have an interest as a contributor, author, editor, or consultant in any textbook or other instructional material submitted to the district