

Legislative provisions

The manner in which textbooks shall be selected, adopted, and provided is prescribed largely in General Statutes 115-206 to 115-228. (See pp. 12 through 18.)

Without objection, I will proceed to give you the highlights. Quick reference to these statutes reveals these more pertinent and significant provisions:

G.S. 115-206

Stipulates that all selections and adoptions of books shall stem from a course of study adopted by the State board of education upon the recommendation of the State superintendent of public instruction.

G.S. 115-207

Authorizes the State board of education to select one or more basal texts in the several grades and subject areas.

G.S. 115-208

Provides a textbook commission of 12 members appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the State superintendent. Currently all members of the textbook commission are of the white race. Because it would border upon the impossible to expect members of the textbook commission to have competence in all subject matter fields for which they recommend basal textbooks, it is customary for members of the commission to use as many advisers as they may choose.

The names of the advisers chosen from time to time are unknown even to the chairman of the textbook commission. I know, however, that eight or nine members of the Negro race were used as advisers in recent key adoptions.

G.S. 115-209

The evaluations and recommendations of the textbook commission shall be based upon the suitability of the book to the grade for which it is offered, the content or subject matter, and other criteria prescribed by the State board of education.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN THE SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF TEXTS AND
LIBRARY BOOKS—BASAL TEXTBOOKS—THROUGH THE SERVICES OF THE
STATE TEXTBOOK COMMISSION

After the State textbook commission has been organized and after the State board of education has authorized a textbook adoption, the State superintendent notifies members of the appropriate textbook commission division (elementary or high school) that there is to be an adoption in a given subject area or areas. The State superintendent notifies all textbook companies, properly registered in the State, that an adoption is pending.

The letter from the State superintendent notifying the publishing companies that an adoption is pending sets forth: (1) what subject matter fields are included and for what grades; (2) whether books to be submitted shall be a series or whether only single texts will be considered; (3) names and addresses of members of the textbook commission—elementary and high school divisions, and when and where samples are to be sent; (4) a copy of the policy and procedures to be