

CHAPTER II

DEVELOPMENT, REVISION, AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

Section 117.13(a)(2) of the Title II Regulations sets one of the functions to be fulfilled by the State plan administration as:

The development, revision, dissemination, and evaluation of standards relating to the selection, acquisition, and use of school library resources, textbooks, and other printed and published instructional materials.

Section 117.1(k) defines standards as follows:

"Standards" means those measures (established by the State agency for administration of the State plan or established by other authoritative groups or individuals and accepted by the State agency for such administration) which are used for making determinations of the adequacy, quality, and quantity of school library resources, textbooks, and other printed and published instructional materials to be made available for the use of children and teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

A. Purpose of Standards in the Title II Program

The purpose of standards in relation to the Title II program is to establish qualitative and quantitative measures which will set new or revised levels of requirements in school library resources, textbooks, and other instructional materials made possible by the funds available under Title II. Since Title II also requires that State agencies set forth policies and procedures to assure that Federal funds will be used to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of State, local, and private support, these standards may serve the purpose of setting quantitative levels for assessing present provisions for materials in school districts or individual schools. They can also serve as measures to decide the relative needs of schools for items in the three categories: school library resources, textbooks, and other instructional materials; and can be applied as measures of the need for materials for children and teachers in both public and private schools.

The standards developed or revised for the Title II program serve, of course, the general purposes of all educational standards: to set minimum levels below which no school can be expected to operate effectively, and to encourage effort not only to meet standards, but to go beyond them toward excellence in educational opportunity. In the formulation and revision of standards for Title II it is essential, therefore, to consider the State's educational objectives as well as the degree of attainment possible in the provision of materials in the State.