

"Whenever applicable, the content of texts should reflect the culture of varied ethnic groups at different socio-economic levels".

(c) "methods of selection, assignment, and distribution of text and library books for school use;"

*Answer*

"The selection, adoption, purchase, and distribution of textbooks in the State of Florida as prescribed by Florida Statutes, Section 233.04-233.48" as indicated below for pertinency:

*Courses of Study Committee*

Recommendations for changes in textbook adoptions originate with the State Courses of Study Committee. (233.03)

This is a continuing committee consisting of twelve members, nine of whom are actively engaged in school work and three of whom are lay citizens. Members of the committee are appointed by the State Board of Education on the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Florida Statutes provide that the Committee shall make its recommendations to the State Superintendent annually on or before March 15.

It is the duty of the State Superintendent under the Statutes, to consider both the cost of the committee proposals and the educational value of the proposed changes. On, or before, April 15, the State Superintendent must present an analysis of the Courses of Study Report together with his own recommendations to the State Board of Education. Under Florida Statutes, the State Board of Education must approve any recommendations related to textbooks before a change may be made. (233.03)

When a textbook adoption has been authorized by the State Board of Education, the entire publishing industry is advised and is invited to submit books for consideration in accordance with detailed instructions regarding legal requirements, administrative procedures, specifications for book manufacture, and criteria for book content.

Specifications for book materials and manufacturing processes are worked out in detail, and an agreement to conform to these manufacturing standards on the part of publishers is made a prerequisite to contract award. The specifications, which become a part of the contract, make it possible for the State to recover the cost of books which are defective or to have defective books replaced without charge. Thousands of defective books have been replaced because of this contractual safeguard.

*Textbook Distribution*

Florida Statutes require every publisher to whom a textbook contract has been awarded to maintain in the State, at a convenient distributing point, a depository in which the books under adoption shall be kept in quantities large enough to fill orders without delay. The depository may be maintained separately, or it may be maintained jointly with other publishers. Because of the advantage of reduced overhead costs, all current publishers ship books through a single depository, the Florida School Book Depository, in Jacksonville.

The Depository is operated privately, and its expenses are defrayed by the publisher under arrangements made with the Depository owner. Books are sold to the State (F.O.B.—the Florida School Book Depository) at as low a price as they are sold anywhere in the United States, including the publisher's home shipping points.

Another center of distribution, located in Tallahassee, is the State Textbook Exchange which is financed and operated by the State. The Exchange is used primarily as a center for collection and redistribution of textbook surpluses. The program of collection and redistribution of books has been instrumental in saving thousands of dollars worth of books.

The Exchange warehouse facilities are, also, used for the storage and distribution of materials published and distributed by the State Department of Education and other agencies of state government.

*County Responsibilities (233.43)*

County school superintendents have been designated by Florida Statutes as the responsible agents for the State in evaluation, local distribution, and accounting of state-adopted textbooks.

In each county the County Superintendent has designated one person to administer or coordinate the textbook program. For purposes of uniformity and simplicity these persons are referred to as county textbook managers.