

534 BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS AND TREATMENT OF MINORITIES

The county textbook managers have such responsibilities as are assigned them by the county superintendents. These responsibilities usually include—

(1) the keeping of accurate records of deposits to and expenditures from the county textbook account

(2) preparation of textbook requisitions based upon minimum known needs and stocks of available books already in the county

(3) preparation of annual textbook inventory reports and such other reports as may, from time to time, be necessary or desirable

(4) distribution of textbooks to the several schools in the county and maintenance of records of the titles and quantities of books in the various schools. (The importance of maintaining an accurate and comprehensive inventory record cannot be overemphasize. Inadequate inventory accounting may well result in duplication of stocks of books already on hand, shortage of other needed texts, waste of available money, and serious educational handicaps for the pupils.)

(5) coordination and facilitation of the collection of refunds for lost and damaged books and receipts from the sale of textbooks

(6) development of recommendations for the conservation, renovation, and exchange of textbooks.

The obligation imposed by Florida law to provide safe, dry, vermin-proof storage facilities for textbooks is another responsibility of county school boards. The law further provides that books in storage shall be neatly arranged by title, subject, and grade.

One of the duties of principals and teachers is "to require a receipt from each pupil to whom books are issued and to give a receipt to each pupil upon the return of the books." The State assists county school administrators in this legal requirement by furnishing a duplicate receipt form. At the time books are distributed each pupil signs the receipt form for the books he has received. When the books are returned, the teacher signs a copy of the duplicate receipt form and gives it to the pupil as evidence that all books for which he has been charged have been returned or that the State has been reimbursed for any unnecessary damage or loss.

The Florida State Department of Education maintains the philosophy that the selection of school library resources is both the prerogative and responsibility of local school officials who are cognizant of the needs of students within their school district and of the various curricula serving these students. While the State Department of Education does not issue lists of approved Titles for school libraries, local school officials are encouraged to use standard bibliographic tools such as those issued by the American Library Association, U. S. Office of Education, and other professional associations. These organizations have consistently endorsed materials representative of all religious, ethics and cultural groups. The final authority for materials to be acquired within any individual school rests with the principal of the school or the head school librarian.

(d) "the uses of the provisions of federal educational legislation for the increase in supply of text and library resources for the schools in your state or district;"

Answer

The Legislature for the State of Florida appropriated \$12,789,707 for the 1965-67 Biennium for textbooks, or \$6,224,746 for 1965-66, and \$6,564,961 for 1966-67. The amount of money spent on textbooks in the State of Florida from Public Law 89-10, Title II Funds was \$42,644.81. This represents 1.7% of the Title II (P.L. 89-10) allocation of 2.6 million dollars to the State. The Florida State Plan for P.L. 89-10, Title II states in Section 3.52, and I quote:

"The State through its textbook program provides textbooks in sufficient quantity to meet curriculum requirements in courses of study in the public schools. Students enrolled in non-public schools generally provide their own textbooks. Therefore the proportion of the State's allotment to be expended for textbooks shall be not more than fifteen (15) per cent of the total State allocation minus administrative costs."

Criteria for judging content are prepared by the Courses of Study Committee for the guidance of the publishers and of the State Textbook Selection Committees. These criteria are designed to give brief and precise information concerning the scope, sequence, treatment, and objectives being sought in textbooks in specific curriculum areas.