

*State Textbook Committee (23307-233.11)*

Florida Statutes provide that each school year, not later than June 15, individual state textbook committees shall be appointed for the selection of books in the separate curriculum areas of the secondary school and a general textbook committee shall be appointed for the selection of books for the elementary school.

The duties of these state textbook committees include examining and recommending for adoption suitable textbooks in the areas for which they are specifically responsible.

The state textbook committees, appointed by the State Board of Education on the recommendation of the State Superintendent, comprise persons actively engaged in teaching or in the supervision of teaching in the public elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education in the State and lay citizens not professionally connected with education. Care is taken to appoint teachers who are outstanding in the subject fields under consideration.

While the state textbook committees cannot delegate final responsibility for the recommendation of textbooks, committees composed of instructional personnel and lay citizens in the various counties may evaluate textbooks and submit opinions, evaluations, and recommendations to the appropriate state textbook committees.

*State Textbook Purchasing Board (233.16)*

The State Textbook Selection Committees do not have the final voice in the selection of books, but they do have the responsibility to recommend suitable, usable, and desirable books in order of their preference. Before a book may be purchased it must be selected from the list of books recommended by the state textbook committees and approved by the State Textbook Purchasing Board.

Under this plan the State is able to utilize the business acumen and experience of the Governor and members of the Cabinet, as well as the professional training and judgment of the members of the selection committees. Every book to be eligible for State Textbook Purchasing Board consideration must first have been recommended as suitable, usable, and desirable by one of the state textbook committees.

The state textbook committees may recommend and the States may adopt not more than five textbooks for each grade and subject field in the curriculum of public elementary and high schools in the state.

*County Evaluation of State-Adopted Textbooks (233.43(14))*

Florida Statutes require each county superintendent to conduct an evaluation of each state-adopted textbook which has not been previously used in his county, in order to determine its appropriateness and usability in the county's schools, before the textbook is requisitioned. Counties may use any textbooks adopted by the State but are not required to use any particular book. Reports on evaluations of textbooks must be kept on file in the office of the county superintendent since the State Board of Education may request at any time a copy of the county evaluation reports.

*Financing Textbook Purchases*

Purchases and distribution of textbooks are financed through annual General Revenue appropriations which are made biennially by the State Legislature. It is within the limitations of these annual appropriations that the State must project textbook allocations for the county school systems. County textbook allocations are computed on a uniform principle prescribed by the State Board of Education; no deviation from the uniform principle is permitted.

The amount of the county textbook allocation marks the requisition ceiling for the year except as factors not considered in the original allotment make a supplementary allocation necessary or desirable. Allocations may be increased in any year by balances carried over from the preceding year and by credit earned from collections for lost and damaged textbooks. Furthermore, allocations may be supplemented if there have been marked increases in enrollment, losses by fire or storm, or other factors not readily predictable which may have occasioned extraordinary, justifiable, and verifiable textbook needs.

The state textbook appropriation has only a biennial life. If any part of it is unused at the close of the biennium, it reverts to the General Revenue Fund of the State. It has been possible, however, even in legislative years, to carry over annually the balances which remain to the credit of the counties. Each year these balances become a supplement to the next year's allocation. This is possible because the legal requisition period for any year is closed on and after March 1.