

Selection Committee

The most important action taken in textbook selection normally rests with the selection committee. This committee will find its strength in terms of the strengths of the individual members of the group. For this reason, great care must be exercised in committee selection. The school superintendent, in consultation with his administrative staff, is the logical person to appoint the members of this committee.

In terms of selecting members of this committee the superintendent will be guided by a variety of pertinent criteria. Consideration of desirable characteristics of committee members will usually begin with teaching experience and demonstrated competence. Such teachers will be able to approach the matter of textbook selection with the background desirable for an enlightened choice. Their approach will not be based solely on the mechanical selection of books, but rather, on a more meaningful approach based on familiarity with the basic course of study, local student needs, and materials currently in use. The experienced teacher does not tend to be dominated by other members of the committee regardless of predetermined notions possessed by other committee members. Teachers are naturally interested in studies within their own areas of teaching competence. Members should want to serve on a particular committee, and be willing to give of the time and effort necessary for enlightened selection in terms of course of study and local needs.

A selection committee will normally include a school administrator and may include subject matter specialists, librarians and other interested community representatives. At this point, the possibility of an administrator dominating the committee should be considered. This will not happen if the administrator understands that his function is one of facilitating decision making and is not one of directive leadership. Some consideration could be given to having the chairman serve as a non-voting member of the committee. An administrator is ideally qualified to serve as