# Superintendent’s Memo #064-19

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: March 22, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Approval of K-12 English Language Arts Textbooks

On March 21, 2019, the Virginia Board of Education received the Final Review of Proposed State Approved Textbooks for K-12 English. The Board of Education took action to approve the list of proposed English textbooks. The Department of Education has published revised lists of approved textbooks on its [English Textbooks & Instructional Materials](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/textbooks/english/index.shtml) webpage in accordance with Section 22.1-238 of the [*Code of Virginia*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode)*.*

The Board of Education’s authority for approving textbooks or other instructional materials is prescribed in the Constitution of Virginia ([Article VIII, § 5](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article8/section5/)). A comprehensive overview of the current textbook review process, along with the Regulations Governing Local School Boards and School Divisions, are available in [Virginia’s Textbook Review Process](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/textbooks/review_process/va_textbook_review_process.pdf).

The Code of Virginia permits local school boards to use textbooks not approved by the Virginia Board of Education.  If a local school board opts to use a textbook not approved by the Board of Education, a local textbook review process should be conducted that includes components similar to the state level review.  The [Guidelines for Local Textbook Approval](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/textbooks/review_process/index.shtml), updated by the Board of Education in September 2011, provide additional information.

Questions regarding approved K-12 English textbooks should be directed to Jill Nogueras, English Coordinator, by email at Jill.Nogueras@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2227.

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