| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: I

## Date: January 25, 2018

### Title: Report on the Timeline for the Approval of K-12 English Language Arts Textbooks *(written report)*

#### Presenter: Ms. Tracy Fair Robertson, English Coordinator

##### **Email:** [**Tracy.Robertson@doe.virginia.gov**](mailto:Tracy.Robertson@doe.virginia.gov) **Phone:** **804-371-7585**

## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

## Executive Summary:

The Board of Education’s authority for approving textbooks or other instructional materials is prescribed in the Virginia Constitution and in the *Code of Virginia*. With the assistance of experienced classroom teachers and other educators, the Virginia Department of Education reviews textbooks and instructional materials for alignment with the Standards of Learning and makes recommendations to the Board of Education on state adoption. The Board of Education approved the current list of state-approved English textbooks in 2012 following revisions to the *English Standards of Learning* and *Curriculum Framework* in 2010. The Department of Education will begin the process of textbook review for K-12 English textbooks in February 2018 using the timeline indicated in Attachment A. The Department will invite publishers to submit textbooks for review that are correlated to the Virginia 2017 *English Standards of Learning*. The Department will use the state review process and criteria approved March 2011. In accordance with the Board’s approved process, the books will also be reviewed for bias, and suitability for instructional planning. There will also be a public examination of materials during a public review and comment period. The alignment of textbooks and instructional materials with the state's academic standards provides a foundation for student success. The English Textbook process aligns with the Board’s Priority 1: Provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students.

## Action Requested:

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the report.

**Previous Review or Action:**

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

The Board of Education’s authority for approving textbooks and other instructional materials is prescribed in the Virginia Constitution and in the *Code of Virginia.*

*Virginia Constitution, Article VIII, § 5 (d)*

It [the Board of Education] shall have authority to approve textbooks and instructional aids and materials for use in courses in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

*Code of Virginia*, § 22.1-238

1. The Board of Education shall have the authority to approve textbooks suitable for use in the public schools and shall have authority to approve instructional aids and materials for use in the public schools. The Board shall publish a list of all approved textbooks on its website and shall list the publisher and the current lowest wholesale price of such textbooks.
2. Any school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

For the purposes of this chapter, the term "textbooks" means print or electronic media for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course.

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

See attached timetable.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The agency’s existing resources cannot absorb this responsibility at this time. The Department will explore other options to carry out the approval process including but not limited to conducting virtual meetings for communication and consensus.

**2018 Proposed Approval Process for K-12 English Language Arts Textbooks**

**February 2018** The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) invites publishers to submit textbooks for review.

VDOE seeks nominations for qualified educators and content experts to serve on the textbook review committees.

Publishers indicate their intent to submit textbooks on completed certification and agreement forms that are required by the Board in its state approval process.

**March 2018** Review committees of K-12 educators and content experts with advanced degrees in the field are determined.

VDOE reviews publisher certifications and agreements and works with publishers to address concerns. Incomplete forms may result in the textbook being removed for consideration for review.

**May 2018** VDOE notifies the publishers of the evaluation committee members for the purpose of sending all the textbooks under consideration for approval to these reviewers**.**

**June-July 2018** Committee members use the evaluation criteria to review the textbooks independently for Standards of Learning (SOL) correlations, content, bias, and design for instructional planning and support.

**August 2018** Members of the review committee submit their individual textbook analysis to the VDOE staff for aggregation and consensus.

**October 2018** The consensus evaluations are shared with publishers.

**November 2018** Publishers are given the opportunity to respond to the committee’s reviews and recommendations.

**January 2019** The Board receives the proposed list of textbooks for first review, along with information from the textbook publishers’ certifications and agreements.

**February 2019** During a 30-day public comment period, the public is invited to review copies of the books that have been placed around the state and to provide comment to the Board.

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**March 2019** The Board reviews all public comment, considers the list, and approves the textbooks.

VDOE posts a list of approved textbooks with prices and information from the textbook publisher’ certifications and agreements on the VDOE’s Web site.

**Ongoing** The public may provide ongoing feedback regarding inaccuracies in approved textbooks.

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