



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** Z

**Date:** April 25, 2024

**Title:** Report of English Textbook and Instructional Materials Approval Process Grades 6-12

**Presenter:** Dr. Michelle C. Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

## **Purpose of Presentation**

For information only: No action required.

## **Executive Summary**

Article VIII, Section 5, of the Virginia Constitution gives the Board of Education (“Board”) the authority “to approve textbooks and instructional aids and materials for use in the public schools of the Commonwealth.” The alignment of textbooks and instructional materials with the state’s academic standards provides a foundation for student success. With the assistance of experienced classroom teachers and other educators, the Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) 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 approved the current list of state-approved English textbooks following revisions to the *English Standards of Learning* in 2017. The current list of English textbooks was approved by the Board in 2019.

Following the Board’s approval of the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*, the VDOE requests permission to begin the process of textbook review for 6-12 English textbooks in April 2024, using the timeline indicated below.

The Department of Education proposes to use [Virginia’s Textbook Review Process](#) that was approved March 24, 2011. Following the Board’s approval of the textbook review process for secondary English, the Department will invite publishers to submit textbooks for review. It is the primary responsibility of publishers to ensure the accuracy of textbooks they submit for review. The Department will work to ensure that publishers have accomplished this by establishing the following evaluations for each textbook submitted: 1) an accuracy review based on the Textbook Publisher’s Certification and Agreement; 2) a review for correlation to the Virginia 2024 *English Standards of Learning*, content, bias, and suitable instructional

planning and support based on the evaluation criteria used by review committees; and 3) a public examination of materials during a public review and comment period.

Local school boards may approve secondary English textbooks that are not on the Board-approved list. In accordance with § [22.1-238](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, any school board may use secondary English textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

Local school boards that choose to approve textbooks that are not on the Board-approved list will engage in a process similar to the Board’s new process, where they request certifications of accuracy from publishers.

**Action Requested**

No action requested.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

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

**Rationale for Action**

Local school divisions are expected to fully implement the 2024 *English Standards of Learning* during the 2024–2025 school year. School divisions will be awaiting a Board approved list to adopt and purchase necessary resources and materials for full implementation.

**Previous Review or Action**

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority**

[Virginia Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5\(d\)](#)

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*.

[Code of Virginia, § 22.1-238](#). Authority

[Code of Virginia § 22.1-241](#). Contracts with publishers.

[Code of Virginia § 22.1-242](#). State Board to adopt regulations.

**Implementation and Communication**

See proposed timeline in Attachment 1.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources**

The State Approval of Textbooks for 6-12 secondary English can be absorbed by the agency's existing resources at this time. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this activity, other services may be affected.