



Report to the Henderson County Board of Education Five Year District Instructional Text Needs Assessment

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Background

In October of 2011 a committee was formed at the request of the superintendent to determine the instructional textbook needs of the district over a five year period and the cost of purchasing those materials. The committee was appointed by the superintendent and included principals and district staff. The committee met together four times between October and December. The committee divided the work by school level, with subcommittees for elementary, middle and high school. A fourth subcommittee was formed to take on the task of working with digital text and learning resources.

The subcommittees were charged to enlist school level staff to look at currently available textbook resources and choose materials that would meet curricular needs. Of course, in the current move to national standards, this was a difficult task, as most textbook companies are in the process of creating texts to match the Common Core Language Arts and Math. (In addition, the Science and Social Studies national standards are still in the creation stage and not due for release until at least 2014.) The subcommittees were also to look at materials that are currently in use and would continue to meet instructional needs, yet will need replacement or resupply in coming years. One example of texts that will continue to meet our needs is Math in Focus Workbooks, which are consumable and will need to be purchased each year. This needs assessment follows the KDE textbook adoption schedule going forward.

Another factor complicating the purchase of instructional materials is the state's decision to cut textbook funding. This has resulted in the textbook purchasing cycle being put in a state of limbo for several years. The math adoption year was to be 2009; however, many districts have yet to adopt math texts due to lack of funding and the change to KCAS standards. Our district did adopt Math in Focus and fund classroom sets of high school math texts last year, but this was done with board dollars. PLCS texts were to be adopted in 2010 and Humanities in 2011, but our district has not adopted those texts. Consequently, to catch up with curricular needs, PLCS, Humanities and additional math materials will need to be considered for purchase.

A third factor to consider when making decisions on whether to purchase instructional materials is the new assessment and accountability system in Kentucky. The new standards are at a much more rigorous level than before, demanding more rigorous materials. Additionally, the program reviews in PLCS and Humanities have added rigor to those areas.

Finally, the committee was asked to assess the availability of digital resources.

Format of the Needs Assessment

The subcommittees were given a template on which to record the results of the instructional text needs assessment. This template asked for the title of a representative text or series that it was agreed would meet the instructional needs identified. In addition, a rationale for that text or series was requested, plus a unit cost estimate, number of units needed, and total cost of all units needed. The template included columns for both hard copy texts as well as digital resources. In addition to this narrative, the report includes a summary of the needs assessment (Appendix A) and the detailed work of the subcommittees (Appendix C).

Elementary Instructional Text Resources

One recurring cost in elementary instruction is Math in Focus workbooks that must be replaced each year. The cost for next year will be \$66,000, with the 5 year cost at \$336,000. The elementary subcommittee feels that there are non-basal text and digital resources that are necessary to effective instruction, including the *COACH* assessment practice series, *My Sidewalks*, *Passageways*, and *Ladders to Success* reading texts. Additionally, the KCAS Reading standards require more complex texts than before, and there is an emphasis on informational reading. Our current literature and supplemental resources are heavy on fiction rather than informational texts. \$116,000 was requested to purchase informational reading texts listed in appendix B of the KCAS standards. Digital resources that are currently in use are included include *Accelerated Reader* and *Accelerated Math*, *Reading A to Z*, and *BrainPop*. These programs have yearly recurring licensing costs. Currently the schools are responsible for these resources.

Next year is scheduled as the adoption year for Reading and Language Arts. This coincides with the increased rigor of the KCAS standards. The cost of the representative reading/ELA series for K-5 listed is \$343,000. The science adoption is scheduled for 2013-14. The K-5 cost is estimated at \$190,000. In 2014-15, the listed social studies series K-5 cost is \$181,000.

Estimated Needs for Elementary are:

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>5 Year</u>
\$502,459	\$630,448	\$445,061	\$436,722	\$249,837	\$2,264,527

Middle School Instructional Text Resources

Math in Focus for the sixth grade was purchased this year. The plan is to phase in seventh and eighth grade Math in Focus over the next two years. The publisher is creating the middle school series one year at a time, so we intend to adopt as those become available. The cost will be \$35,000 for each grade level. As textbook state funding has been zero for the adoption schedule years for PLCS and Humanities, and due to the requirements of the program reviews in those areas, texts for those are listed as needs for this year. In 2012-13, Reading/Language Arts basal series grade 6-8 costs are listed at \$264,000. Science series adoption is listed at a cost of \$118,000, while the social studies series is listed at \$127,000.

Estimated Needs for Middle School are:

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>5 Year</u>
\$345,677	\$357,749	\$296,092	\$135,457	\$6330	\$1,114,305

High School Instructional Text Resources

For 2011-12 the high school needs include Spanish texts and humanities texts due to those adoption years having already passed. The adoption schedule for English texts is 2012-13, and the cost is listed at \$315,500. The science adoption series is listed at \$206,400, and social studies basal texts are listed at \$162,500. \$3000 per year has been budgeted for novels each year to raise text complexity to meet KCAS standards.

Math textbooks were purchased this year. However, the number purchased was not enough to have a book for every student, so many are kept in classrooms and used as classroom sets. The scheduled math adoption year is 2015-16. The high school subcommittee did not list the purchase of a math book for every student as a need. Should the board choose to make that purchase, the cost would be \$115,223.

Estimated Needs for High School including estimated shipping are:

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16 (Includes math books for all)</u>	<u>5 Year</u>
\$167,864	\$356,736	\$183,906	\$245,421	\$135,875	\$1,089,802

Career and Tech Ed Instructional Text Resources

CTE requests include \$21,000 in textbooks for this year. In ensuing years assistance with digital resources was requested.

Estimated Needs for CTE are:

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>5 Year</u>
\$35,809	\$8291	\$2592	\$5092	\$2592	\$54,376

Estimated Needs for District Over 5 Year Project are:

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
\$1,051,809	\$1,353,224	\$927,651	\$822,692	\$394,634

Total 5 Year Cost \$4,550,010

❖ **Switching to Digital Resources**

Moving to digital texts will be reality at some point in coming years. This would seem to be a move that would decrease the cost of text resources. In some cases that is true. However, many companies currently offer one price that includes both digital and hardcopy resources. Another issue is that currently the infrastructure and hardware necessary to switch

to a digital environment is not in place in the district. Additionally, when digital resources are available, many times there are yearly licensing and/or technical maintenance costs. For example, the high school grammar series is available online at a cost of approximately \$20 per student per year, with the literature series priced at approximately \$86 for a six year subscription per student. This would bring the total cost of the digital high school English series to \$276,660, compared to the hard copy cost of \$286,604 for the same series. At this point in time, reaching a comparative cost estimate for digital versus hard copy text materials has too many variables to calculate with any certainty. However, whenever there was a viable matching digital alternative for a text available, it is listed on the detailed needs assessment pages in Appendix B attached to this report.

There are also online text materials that are free. A textbook selection committee would have to do a considerable amount of research to determine the appropriateness of free online resources.

Committee Members: Mike Bruner, Rob Carroll, Jinger Carter, Cindy Cloutier, Lisa Crook, Patricia Cummings, Victor Doty, Kasey Farmer, Bob Lawson, Kim Marshall, Linda Payne, Ryan Reusch, Walt Spencer, Marganna Stanley, Chad Thompson, Margaret Ubelhor, Kim White, Darrell Daigle