



Funding Instructional Materials for Texas Schoolchildren A Priority – Not an Option

Reading is the backbone of every child's education in Texas. It's one of the most basic and important education goals in our schoolchildren's lives – and certainly the most crucial to a successful education. A child's success in their daily tasks at school is dependent on their ability to read at grade level.

New instructional materials for English Language Arts and Reading are scheduled to arrive in Texas classrooms in fall 2010, now that that State Board of Education has approved long-awaited revisions to the state's standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

THE PROBLEM:

- To date, the Legislature has not committed on whether or not the state will fully fund the 2010 English Language Arts and Reading proclamation, although the Texas Education Agency has issued its proclamation calling for \$547 million in funding. In addition, funding for \$346 million for continuing contracts due to new enrollment numbers, along with freight and fuel costs, will ensure that the 80,000+ new students who enroll in Texas schools each year receive their own set of materials, bringing the total required to \$893 million.
- In recent sessions, it has been very difficult to persuade the Legislature to fully fund instructional materials in a timely manner, and on one occasion, forcing our public schools to utilize out-of-date textbooks while our children wait for the Legislature to authorize payment for instructional materials they sorely need.
- Texas schoolchildren are currently using instructional materials for English Language Arts and Reading that are almost **10 years old** and these instructional materials **do not** include the new curriculum or college readiness standards.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- Without the full funding of Proclamation 2010, Texas schoolchildren will not have the instructional materials they need to successfully learn the most critical academic subjects including English Language Arts and Reading.
- All Texas schoolchildren need access to quality learning materials and deserve a quality education.
- Without this crucial funding, the cost of instructional materials will shift to local taxpayers.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Your voice is important. TexasCurriculum.org can help you get your message on this issue to public and elected officials. Your opinion and concerns carry a great deal of weight in the Texas Legislature.
- Teachers, parents and reading advocates are rallying to voice their support for this most critical adoption of new instructional materials in the last decade. It is an expensive proclamation to educate the 4.6 million schoolchildren, but if we fall behind in funding now, how are we going to provide materials for the 4.8 million children in 2010 and the five million children in 2016? **We need the Legislature's full commitment. Texas schoolchildren need your voice now.**

If you would like to get involved in this effort, please contact:

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