



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TexasCurriculum.Org Urges State Leaders to Ensure Textbook Purchase with  
Federal Stimulus Funds**

**AUSTIN, Texas** – TexasCurriculum.Org is calling on the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature to take advantage of the unique opportunity to utilize federal stimulus funds scheduled to come to Texas for education to guarantee full funding of textbooks, technology and fixing hurricane-ravaged schools.

"We are greatly encouraged that the use of stimulus package funds will ensure Texas students that the Texas Education Agency's recommended textbook adoption of new reading instructional materials will be met," said TexasCurriculum.Org Executive Director Brittany Fish. "This year, the State is scheduled to adopt instructional materials in Reading Language Arts, the most important of all subjects. This adoption is especially critical, because the materials students are currently using in this all-important subject are not aligned to the new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which have been extensively expanded and revised. New materials also are needed to ensure that Texas students receive the benefit of recent advances in the use of technology, which have been extraordinary, and the latest research on student learning."

Payments to Texas under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will include an estimated \$4 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, including \$3.2 billion reserved for state support of education. This additional federal funding for education will more than make up for the anticipated \$1.4 billion shortfall resulting from investment losses in the Permanent School Fund and should make it possible for the state to fund the entire state education budget, including the items currently designated as "contingent" in the proposed base budget: the Foundation School Program, Technology Allotment and Instructional Materials.

"The infusion of \$4 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, which is in addition to billions the State will receive in federal stimulus funding for Medicaid and other purposes, gives us the resources to fill the gap in the State education budget and avoid a crisis that threatens the futures of 4.8 million schoolchildren in our public schools.

We fully support Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott's recommendation that the federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds be utilized for funding textbooks, technological equipment and fixing hurricane-ravaged schools," Fish said.

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*TexasCurriculum.Org is a resource Web site designed to keep Texas educators, local state and school officials, parents and students informed about the textbook adoption process.*