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Instructional Materials Funded at 85 Percent of TEA Request

Budget plan includes funding for English Language Arts and Reading textbooks

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas Legislature is set to fund the new English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) instructional materials at 85 percent of the amount requested by the Texas Education Agency, according to the Conference Committee Report on the 2010-11 state budget approved today.

“We applaud the House and Senate budget conferees for standing up for Texas schoolchildren,” said Brittany Fish, Executive Director of TexasCurriculum.org. “We appreciate that the Legislature has made this funding commitment, however we remain concerned that a 15 percent cut in funding will put some Texas schoolchildren’s instructional materials at risk.”

The Legislature is committed to spend \$812 million for the new ELAR instructional materials and continuing contracts in the upcoming biennium.

“We would encourage state leadership, once the Legislative Session is over, to begin discussing innovative ways the state may resolve interim funding shortfalls,” Fish said.

“We also look forward to working with the Texas Education Agency, the Legislative Budget Board and the state leadership to develop a process that will minimize any delays in delivery or shortfall of instructional materials in 2010, as well as in future instructional materials purchases,” she said.

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