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Publishers Offer to Step Up Timeline for Producing Reading Materials

(Austin- November 15, 2006) – The school publishing industry today offered to implement a more aggressive 18-month timeline so that instructional materials aligned to revised Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) reaches Texas schoolchildren according to the original timeline.

Teachers and supervisors of reading instruction in Texas want reading curriculum standards, or TEKS, tightened and revised prior to issuing a proclamation to publishers. The current State Board of Education rules (TAC § 66.27(a)) call for the issuance of a new proclamation 24 months before the scheduled adoption,

“If the State Board of Education selects an aggressive timeline to issue the proclamation in November 2007, publishers can and will meet that timeline to have materials ready for submission in Spring 2009,” said Jay Diskey, executive director of Association of American Publishers School Division, in a letter to the State Board of Education today.

“The member companies of the Association of American Publishers are ready and willing to work with Texas to ensure that TEKS-based, TAKS-based instructional materials are available to meet the needs of Texas school children as soon as possible,” said Diskey.

The State Board of Education rules allow shortening the timeline and the Board will consider doing that during their meeting today and tomorrow in Austin.

“Any delay in the issuance of the proclamation will delay getting new language arts, literature and ESL books, among others, into the classroom. Currently we expect them in fall of 2010,” said Nancy Siefken, administrative director of Texas Textbooks.Org, an online community of educators, parents and administrators.

“At the same time, these new materials must be aligned to the TEKS, which are still being revised, so if the publishers are willing to step up their production timeline to keep Proclamation 2007 on track, everyone benefits,” said Siefken.

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