

**Statement by Karla Christman, Immediate Past-President,
Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas:**

Governor Rick Perry proposed replacing traditional textbooks with computer technology in Texas classrooms while speaking at a computer gaming conference yesterday.

As Immediate Past-President of the Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas, I commend Gov. Perry's leadership and vision in advocating for the transition to technology in Texas classrooms.

The "digital revolution" is underway in classrooms throughout the country, and Texas is leading the charge. In classrooms across Texas, the digital age has already arrived. Many Texas students are utilizing instructional content that's delivered digitally every day in our schools.

This transition to technology is an exciting, dramatic step forward. To fully realize technology's promise of improving Texas education, caution must still be taken and four-year deadlines to replace all print textbooks must be carefully considered.

A well-planned infrastructure to reach every district and every school must be the first steps for Texas to implement in this transition. Planning how to provide the electronic devices for every student in Texas as well as providing support personnel and funds to sustain this forward thinking goal should be our state's next steps.

The rush to digital must not neglect what is most paramount: providing the highest quality instructional materials for Texas students. Content and delivery are what matter most to every child in Texas and not every child will have access or the ability to utilize electronic devices. Equity must be discussed and addressed for every child in our great state.

Today, publishers develop comprehensive learning systems delivered in both print and electronic media. These programs are based on the latest scientific research, include instructional strategies to help students of all ability levels learn and are aligned with Texas Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards.

Bringing Texas classrooms into the 21st Century is a laudable goal. In fact, much progress has been made towards this goal. However, we must be wary of siphoning off resources to purchase computer hardware at the sacrifice of the educational content itself. In Texas, let's champion a "**digital evolution**" instead of a "digital revolution."

Karla Christman
Immediate Past-President
Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas

April 8, 2010

###