



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 11, 2006

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### **TEXTBOOK COORDINATORS APPLAUD SENATE**

Textbook coordinators praised the State Senate's decision to push forward with adopting new math textbooks for Texas elementary school students. The Senate's adoption of CSHB1 Wednesday included a floor amendment from Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano and co-sponsored by Sen. Royce West of Dallas and Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio.

"The Senate's action allows for orderly delivery of a major component of the state's instructional materials," commented Phil Brasher, president of the Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas (TCAT), "That will have a meaningful impact on the education of Texas children."

The original version of the bill would have stalled the adoption of badly needed textbooks, already delayed two years after Legislative action in 2003. Current textbooks, which have been in the classroom since the late 1990s, don't include some of the elements that students and schools are held responsible for on newer statewide tests.

Sen. Shapiro's Floor Amendment 15 allowed the State Board of Education to continue the process toward adopting new elementary math books for introduction in the classroom by the fall of 2008. The elementary math books will be able to complement secondary math books to be adopted and in classrooms in 2007.

Brasher said that TCAT members look forward to working with Sen. Shapiro and her colleagues on ideas to improve the method of getting instructional materials to schoolchildren.

He noted that textbooks were not an issue in the court ruling that prompted the Special Session of the Legislature. "Our system of statewide adoption for statewide accountability works very well and with great equity. Within that broad concept, we hope to assist the Legislature in finding greater efficiencies."