



INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FUNDING UPDATE

JULY 2010

Lawmakers will face severe budget shortfalls mandating difficult funding decisions when the 82nd Texas Legislature convenes in January 2011. The textbooks needed by Texas' five million schoolchildren could be on the cutting block, even though budget cutbacks have already reduced funding for these required instructional materials.

Here's an update on the current funding status of student textbooks:

Proclamation 2011: Language Arts, English as a Second Language, Pre-Kindergarten

- The State Board of Education (SBOE) has issued Proclamation 2011, which calls for the development and purchase of instructional materials for Grades K-8 English as a Second Language Students (ESL students), along with updated materials for pre-kindergarten, spelling, handwriting, speech and English. These instructional materials are scheduled to be in classrooms in fall of 2011.
- Funding for Proclamation 2011 has already been reduced by 21.6 percent, even though the 82nd Legislature, when this funding will be appropriated, has yet to convene. The current projected cost of Proclamation 2011 is \$462.3 million, representing this 21.6 percent reduction.
- Funding for two years of continuing contract instructional materials will also be considered. The \$393 million in funding requested for continuing contracts would purchase materials for the approximately 150,000 new students who will be entering the classroom over the next two years, annual subscriptions, lost and damaged materials, materials for visually-impaired students and annually-purchased worktexts.
- Citing budget shortfalls, legislators could opt to not appropriate funds for this proclamation's instructional materials, which will be developed, approved, ordered, manufactured, and ready for classroom delivery by spring of 2011.

Proclamation 2012: Science

- The new science textbooks for Texas students were scheduled to be funded in full during the 2011 session and are estimated to cost \$347 million. However, the SBOE decided to postpone portions of the request for these updated science instructional materials (Proclamation 2012) until the 2013 Legislative Session.
- Instead of the full proclamation, the SBOE issued a call for updated supplemental science materials for grades 5 through 8 and for high school biology, chemistry, physics and integrated physics and chemistry (IPC).
- Based on methodology provided to the SBOE by Texas Education Agency staff, cost estimates for these supplemental science materials are approximately between \$32 and \$35 million annually.