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Math Education Expert Weighs In on Rescinding Proclamation 2005

The following statement was issued by the president of *Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics* in response to yesterday's proposed committee substitute for House Bill 1 that would prevent schools from receiving new elementary mathematics materials.

STATEMENT FROM CYNTHIA L. SCHNEIDER, PHD, PRESIDENT, TEXAS COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

"It is critical that the textbook adoption process for elementary and secondary mathematics resources proceed in the time frame we currently have established. All mathematics teachers need new textbooks. It will cause undue strain on the K-12 curriculum alignment process to have the Kindergarten - 5th grade books adopted later or under different guidelines than the 6th -12th grade books.

We have worked hard in Texas to align standards, instruction and assessment to give students a chance for success and curb the mathematics "illiteracy" prevalent in today's society. In addition, content alignment from one grade to the next is essential to student learning so that key concepts are introduced by building on prior understanding. The existing textbook adoption process supports all of our alignment efforts. Delaying and/or changing the process may cause unintended consequences. I urge lawmakers to re-think their recent action of rescinding the call for elementary mathematics books.

The mathematics education community is eager to participate in future discussions with the State Board of Education and our legislators about ways to improve the adoption of instructional materials for the benefit of all students."

Dr. Schneider is also a research scientist at the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin.