



Texas Association of Supervisors of Mathematics

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Math Educators Praise Lawmakers for Commitment to New Books

(AUSTIN-May 23, 2007) - The state's leading association of mathematics supervisors praised House and Senate budget writers for fully funding new math textbooks for Texas public schools. Since math funding is included in both versions of the budget, the group is reminding members of the conference committee crafting the state budget to retain the funding for new math books.

"As supervisors, we see first hand the impact outdated instructional materials has on teachers and students in districts across the state," said Michelle King, government relations director for Texas Association of Supervisors of Mathematics (TASM).

The funding for high school and elementary math books, adopted by the State Board of Education last year, is included in the current Texas Education Agency budget request. If the funds are appropriated, new secondary math materials will be in schools this fall, and elementary books will be in classrooms in the fall of 2008.

"These new materials are desperately needed, the current Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus books are not aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements," said King. "We are grateful that the Texas Legislature has acknowledged this vital need for new materials and we are confident that the final budget will reflect this consensus in both the House and the Senate."

State law requires schools and teachers to teach, and the students to learn, the state's curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

No area of Texas education is quite as high-stakes as math. The state holds students directly accountable for their ability to pass math exams. And this is a subject with which many students struggle.

Furthermore, a new state law requires all students to take Algebra II under the Recommended High School Program. As more students than ever before enter Algebra II, math educators believe there is a need for these new materials that more broadly address different learning styles.

"As long as the state expects "*Algebra II for all*," we need TEKS-aligned materials for all students," said King.

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