

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education March 2024 Agenda Item #13

## Subject

Update to “Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials” and document name change to “Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions.”

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Pursuant to its constitutional and statutory authority, the California State Board of Education (SBE) periodically adopts instructional materials for grades kindergarten through eight that local educational agencies (LEAs) may consider in determining what specific instructional materials they will use in their schools. The SBE’s state-level adoptions follow specified processes that, among other things, ensure adopted materials are evaluated for consistency with adopted content standards. The SBE has adopted, and periodically revised, a guidance document for LEAs in selecting high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials at the local level. This SBE agenda item proposes revisions to that existing guidance document––“Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials,” originally developed in 1989 and revised in 1995, 2001, and 2015––and includes a name change to “Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions.”

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the SBE approve the proposed revised document providing guidance for reviewing and piloting instructional materials.

## Brief History of Key Issues

At its January 25, 2024, meeting, the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) approved the proposed revisions to the “Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials,” retitled “Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions,” which is included as Attachment 1. The IQC’s action at the January 25, 2024, meeting followed IQC discussion and revision suggestions of the document during the IQC’s March 15 and September 20, 2023, meetings. The original “Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials” document was developed in 1989, and it has been updated periodically to reflect changes to legislation and guidance issued by the CDE.

LEAs rely on the guidance this document provides as they make vital decisions regarding the review and selection of instructional materials. It may be of particular importance when LEAs consider instructional materials in subjects or grade levels where no recent state-level adoption has occurred. The last time this document was updated was in 2015. This proposed 2023–24 revision of the guidance document maintains essential guidance and references to legislation; it also includes the following modifications:

* Adds guidance that reflects current practices in evaluating, piloting, and selecting standards-aligned instructional materials, including additional emphasis on materials that support multilingual students and students with disabilities
* Deletes dead hyperlinks and includes links to additional, relevant resources
* References toolkits the California county superintendents developed for various content areas
* Includes tools throughout to facilitate decision-making during the review process, with full, customizable versions included in an appendix

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

The SBE approved revisions made in 1995, 2001, and 2015. The SBE first adopted “Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials” in 1989 and revised it in 1995 and 2001. In 2015, the IQC first reviewed and discussed this document, received public comment, and provided proposed edits. In November 2014, the IQC voted to present a revision to the SBE for consideration of adoption.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: Document providing guidance for reviewing and piloting instructional materials, “Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions” (76 pages)