

ACTION ALERT

School Districts Are Adopting K-12 Health Textbooks

The FACTS:

- School districts usually adopt textbooks/instructional materials (IMs) between January and March. Textbooks committees are formed, and a public hearing is held where you can testify.
- The district's School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) must review sex education materials and make recommendations to the district school board, as required by Texas Education Code 28.004.
- All citizens have the right to review the textbooks/IMs.
- Districts may choose IMs approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) or other materials, including those that were submitted to the SBOE but not approved.
- 17 organizations opposed **all** Health textbooks/IMs submitted for state adoption.
- The only textbooks/IMs approved by the SBOE are Goodheart-Willcox (GH-W) for middle and high school. The vote was 10-3. The SBOE did not approve any IMs for Grades K-5.
- GH-W has put sex education materials in a separate document.
- Teachers must teach the curriculum standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which in effect, mandates sex education. However:
- Sex Education is now opt-in, i.e., parents must consent for their children to participate.

ACTION: What You Can Do:

1. Call your school district office and ask who you can talk to about health textbook adoption.

Ask:

- Is the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) reviewing the Health textbooks/IMs? When and where will the SHAC meet to review materials to recommend to the school board?
- Has a health textbook committee been appointed to review health books for adoption?
- Where can I review health textbooks/materials? (Don't accept that you have to go to a regional education service center, which may be many miles from you. If you can't see them at the district or a school, submit a Freedom of Information request.
- When will the school board hold a hearing on health books and how you can testify?
- When will the school board vote on the health textbooks/IMs?

2. If you can't get access to the health books, you can:

- File a complaint with your local district. See Texas Education Code 26 (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/ed/htm/ed.26.htm>) and 28.004 (<https://codes.findlaw.com/tx/education-code/educ-sect-28-004.html>).
- Contact the Texas Education Agency, your State Board of Education member, and/or your state senator to get help with get access to the Health books/IMs.

3. Let others know about the Health textbook adoption process.

4. Keep in mind that sex ed is now "opt-in" -- i.e., Parents must consent to sex ed lessons. However, do not count on the school obeying the law (Texas Ed Code 28.004).

Questions: Contact Anne Newman at SpeakUpTX@aol.com