



November 1, 2011

Dear Middle School and High School Parents:

The 82nd Legislature passed a law, SB6, which established a new system for districts to use in acquiring instructional materials. In the past, the state provided free textbooks, teacher editions, and supplementary materials for our district's students and teachers. These books were selected from a list provided by the state.

Instructional Materials Allotment Flexibility

This new law established an Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA), a more flexible process for districts to use in purchasing textbooks, computer software, supplementary materials, computer courseware, technology, online services, or other instructional materials or technology support services for use in teaching the required foundation and enrichment curriculum. The IMA will be provided to districts on a biennial basis and any unused funds can be carried forward.

Limited Funding

The state did not provide full funding for the (a) new textbooks adopted for 2011, (b) additional textbooks to accommodate our district's growth, (c) supplementary materials which accompany textbooks, and (d) the district's \$3 million annual technology allotment. The district has had to evaluate and make decisions about how to spend these limited resources.

Wealth of Instructional Materials Available for Students and Teachers

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD has a well-developed curriculum, one that is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the STAAR assessment program. The curriculum in each subject area is vertically aligned in order to prepare and support students so that they may move successfully from grade level to grade level. The curriculum ultimately prepares students for college and/or careers.

Many resources are used to support students as they progress through the District's curriculum. Resources include online websites, moodle courses, novels, articles, workbooks, videos, and, of course, textbooks. Textbooks, while an important and standard resource, are not the sole resource of the curriculum. Teachers prepare learning experiences that help students gain understanding of concepts in each subject

area. Teachers use the best resources available to ensure that students learn. Teachers use the textbook when it is the best of all available resources.

How to Checkout Textbooks for Middle School and High School Students

Middle school and high school students/parents may request a textbook for any course in which a student is enrolled. The textbook may be checked out overnight from the library or checked out for the full school year from the appropriate assistant principal's office (see attached forms). Classroom sets of textbooks are also available for students to use during class periods. Please contact your child's secondary school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.