

## TDOE Executive Summary

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy completed an analysis of Tennessee's ELA Adoption process at the request of the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Penny Schwinn. The Tennessee Department of Education collected and provided over 150 documents used during the September 2018-June 2019 ELA adoption process. Johns Hopkins was asked to review the process including (1) the process for selecting reviewers; (2) the method used to assign reviewers to curricula material reviews; and (3) the if process itself was rigorous and would result in the selection of high-quality materials.

Within the statistical analysis of the review, Johns Hopkins University found:

### Reviewer Selection and Training

1. The Tennessee Department of Education **did not adequately prepare reviewers or provide support needed** to use the complex scoring instruments effectively. The Johns Hopkins Study showed that 25% of reviewers did not meet expectations on reviewer assessments; however, those same reviewers continued the scoring process and completed 87 reviews of curriculum materials.
2. Reviewers who did not meet expectations and continued to review materials consistently passed materials at a higher rate than reviewers who passed all expectations.
3. Therefore, the validity of a large number of the ELA material reviews is in question.

### Assignment of Reviewers to Curricula

Although the department made an attempt to randomize reviewers' curriculum assignments by assigning each reviewer a number, Johns Hopkins University stated that **this number assignment did not adequately randomize their assignment to curriculum reviews**. Therefore, lower grade band materials did not have a strong range of scorers.

### Process Results

1. Scoring results provided **inconsistent pass/fail ratings** within material grade bands (e.g., an individual reviewer scoring grade K and grade 1 materials from the same publisher had inconsistent scoring and feedback results).
2. ELA Materials that have been rated consistently high within state and national reviews were consistently rated poorly within the Tennessee process. Materials that have consistently scored lower were rated highly within the Tennessee process. Therefore, the Tennessee process did not yield consistent results with other states' reviews of high quality materials.

## **Tennessee Reviewer Feedback**

1. In addition to Johns Hopkins University's analysis, Tennessee reviewers reported significant frustration with scoring tools. Tools ranged from 19 to 23 pages. Further, reviewers reported spending on average 18 hours with the tool and one curriculum.
2. Reviewer ratings showed lack of consistency within review team scoring and across materials.

## **TDOE Lessons Learned:**

1. TDOE should use a selection process that ensures ELA reviewers have a high capacity to review instructional materials at a rigorous and high level;
2. TDOE should provide training on tools and provide strong supports to reviewers so that they can successfully complete consistent and equitable assessments of all ELA materials submitted by all publishers; and
3. TDOE should ensure that all materials are reviewed equitably with consistent reviews.

**DRAFT TENNESSEE TEXTBOOK and INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION SCHEDULE\***  
**SECTION E – ELA (Reading, Writing, Literature, etc.), CTE**  
**2018-2020**

<b>September 14, 2018</b>	<b>Approval of Section E Screening Instruments by Textbook Instruction Materials Quality Commission, Cordell Hull</b>
<b>October 10, 2018</b>	<b>Approval of Section E Schedule by Textbook Instruction Materials Quality Commission, Cordell Hull</b>
October 17, 2018	Preliminary Notification of Invitation to Bid for Section E, Intent to Bid Documentation Available
<b>November 29, 2018</b>	<b>Intent to Bid Due</b>
<b>December 18, 2018</b>	<b>Official Notification of Invitation to Bid, Section E</b>
<b>January 8, 2019</b>	<b>Pre-Bid Conference, Section E (Location: TBD) Bid Managers for publishers are expected to attend.</b>
February 23-24, 2019	Training for Potential ELA Reviewers
<b>March 1, 2019</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. CST Deadline for Delivery of OFFICIAL BIDS Section E</b>
<b>March TBD, 2019</b>	<b>Meeting of State Textbook Commission, recognition of Preliminary List of Textbooks and Instructional Materials Bid (Cordell Hull)</b>
<b>April 20-21, 2019</b>	Textbook Review Committee Orientation and Training <b>Publisher Presentations</b>
<b>April 26, 2019</b>	<b>All Bid Materials must be available for Review On-Line; Public Review Process Begins</b>
<b>April 29, 2019</b>	<b>Deadline for: (1) Delivery of Official Sample Textbooks to State Collection Site (MTSU James E. Walker Library, 1301 E. Main, Murfreesboro, TN 37132), (2) Delivery of Sample Textbooks to Textbook Advisory Panel Members, and (3) Delivery of Sample Textbooks to State Textbook Commission Members (if requested)</b>
<b>June 17, 2019</b>	<b>Public Comments due by 12:00pm CST</b>
July 2, 2019	All Section Review Due
<b>July 26, 2019</b>	<b>Preliminary Adoption Bid List (Section E) Presented at State Board of Education Meeting</b>
<b>September 20, 2019</b>	<b>Review findings of Johns Hopkins Study, vote on process, review list of advisory members, and discuss agenda for October 22</b>
<b>September 27, 2019</b>	<b>Publisher Responses to Reviewer Feedback and Revised Content via Feedback Sheet due from Publishers</b>
<b>September 27, 2019</b>	<b>Deadline for Amendments to Free Materials Offerings.</b>
September 28-29, 2019, October 3-4, 2019	Textbook Reviewer Re-Review and Feedback Form due from Reviewers

October 5, 2019	Publisher Letter of Response/Letter of Appeal Due. Commission Requests to Speak due.
<b>September TBD, 2019</b>	<b>Meeting of State Instructional Materials Quality Commission; Publisher Comments; Advisory Panel's Final Reviews – Location TBD</b>
<b>October 22, 2019</b>	<b>Meeting of State Instructional Materials Quality Commission : Recommendation of Books for Section E -(Cordell Hull)</b>
Week of October 28, 2019	Advisory Panelists Reviews , Public Comments and Publishers' Written Responses Available Online for Public Viewing
<b>November 15, 2019</b>	<b>Final Textbook Adoption List (Section E) Presented at State Board of Education Meeting – Carson Newman University (Jefferson City TN)</b>
Week of November 16, 2019	Official List of Textbooks for Section E to Local School Systems
<b>January 10, 2020</b>	<b>Deadline for Samples for Section E to be delivered to Local School Systems</b>
January - March, 2020	Local School Systems conduct internal reviews
June 15, 2020	Deadline for Filing Local Adoption Report for Section E

\* Dates and places may change due to scheduling conflicts. The schedule listed here is based on revisions made after receiving feedback from educators, publishers, and the Textbook and Instructional Materials Commission.

Dates in **red** are Textbook and Instructional Materials Commission Meeting Dates

Dates in **blue** are State Board of Education Meeting Dates

Dates in **bold** are important dates for Publishers