



State Board of Education



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April 11, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

I would first like to thank you for your leadership on the important matter of ensuring that no inappropriate curricular content or age-inappropriate library books make their way into our public schools. I have worked closely with Commissioner Morath and Chair Wong in addressing this issue on multiple fronts. They will respond with their actions on this important matter under separate cover.

The State Board of Education is particularly well positioned to address two critical areas of your request. One, which is already in place, is the review of Instructional Materials, essentially the textbooks, that are submitted for approval by the SBOE. The Legislature has granted us the authority to reject instructional materials that are not "suitable for grade level." This authority was useful in our recent adoption of Instructional Materials for Health-related curriculum.

I would also like to inform you of our intention to address the second area pertaining to your request, which is the Internet safety policy that districts must put in place. Currently, only school districts that receive federal funding from the E-Rate program are required to follow 47 U.S.C Sections 254, which states that districts must enforce an Internet safety policy that protects minors from the accessing of visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or other content that could be harmful to minors.

It is my intention as Chair of the State Board of Education to initiate the rulemaking process at our next scheduled meeting that would require all districts in the State of Texas to have an Internet safety policy in place, not just those districts that receive E-Rate funding.

Again, I thank you for your leadership and dedicated efforts to protect the students of the great State of Texas. I look very forward to continuing our joint efforts to ensure that all students in Texas receive a quality education.

Respectfully,

Keven Ellis, DC
Chair, Texas State Board of Education

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