

2017-2018 Textbook Adoption Frequently Asked Questions

Q 1. Please explain this from the meeting e-mail: “Bid Submission Updates: a Program title vs. a Pricing Option for that title”

A 1. In years past, and recently, publishers would submit multiple iterations of the same instructional program or textbook as separate titles, thus submitting more than one title per category. That will have to change this year.

On pages 5 and 6 of the 2017-2018 call, it notes that publishers can only submit one program per instructional category:

“Publishers may only bid one textbook/program in each category. Categories have multiple grade levels. If a book/program covers multiple grade levels within a category, please bid that textbook/program once (only send in one bid for that textbook/program). If the textbook/program is grade level specific *within* a category, publishers can submit the textbook/program for bid in each grade level per category and the textbook/program will be considered as “one” textbook/program”.

Textbooks/Programs come in a variety of formats; print, digital, web based (with different licensing durations), consumable workbooks, etc. It is essentially the same content, presented in different formats or iterations. These different iterations maybe informative for districts when considering the best pricing option for their students and teachers, but are not necessary for the evaluation process. Our evaluation process this year will not allow for a review of the different formats or pricing options for programs, only the program content. So we are more closely monitoring the submission of instructional materials/textbook programs to help the review committees to not have to review the same program more than once.

Q 2. What ratings from the Evaluation Rubric will allow for the titles to be State Adopted?

A 2. Only the titles that have an **Alignment to Standards** rating of 5 will be listed on the Adoption List, per state regulations. A score of 5 indicates at least 80% alignment to the standards in the estimation of the review committee. Those adopted titles will then have notes about their ratings concerning **Instructional Support, Usability, and Assessment**. For those titles that do not have an Alignment to Standards rating of 5, publishers are free to request the evaluations from the review committee members. The ratings from the review committee member are final. Districts are not required to purchase titles on the State Adoption list.

Q.3 Will AP and all electives be up for adoption in 2017-2018?

A 3. Yes, All AP and elective courses in the 2017 MS College and Career Readiness Standards for Science will be up for adoption in the 2017-2018 adoption cycle.

Q 4. The Adoption Calendar sent out references both State Framework Correlations and MS College and Career-Readiness Standards Correlations. However, the Call to Bid only mentions the College and Career-Readiness Standards.

Are correlations required to both sets of standards? Or just the CCRS?

A 4. The State Standards and the College and Career readiness standards are one in the same for Science and the Arts.

Q 5. Is there a link where I can find student enrollment numbers for the subject areas being called for adoption this year?

A 5. You will have to request that information from our reporting department. Send an e-mail to them at reporting@mdek12.org.

Q 6. What does the “DC” mean in front of some of the courses up for adoption, see below. Could you send me an explanation?

907152 DC - PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY I

A 6. Dual Credit- Those are college courses, taught by teachers/professors approved by local colleges, that high school students can take and receive both high school and college credit for. They are not up for adoption, because the colleges select the texts for those courses.

Q 7. We’re curious if the 8/21 meeting will be broadcast online, or only in person?

A 7. The presentations will be available on line after the meeting.

Q 8. For the upcoming Science and Arts adoption, may the same product/program be submitted for multiple courses? For example, may the same Theatre textbook be submitted for all Theatre courses, Level I, II, III, and IV?

A.8. Yes, bid the title once, on one bid, with the grade range 9-12.

Q 9. Are districts required to purchase textbooks from the State Adoption List?

A 9. Procurement rules of the State of Mississippi do not require local school districts to purchase textbooks with public money from the official State Adoption List. Textbook purchase decisions are determined local by districts, not the state.

Q 10. I did notice on the adoption calendar the following:

September 18, 2017 – November 15, 2017	Only the pupil edition and the teacher edition may be shipped to local schools. It is understood that school districts will not have to return the complimentary copies.
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Will you be providing contact information including email addresses for the schools?

A 10. Addresses and other contact information for districts can be found online at mdek12.org under the “MS Schools” link on the home page. Keep in mind publishers are not required to send products to schools, only at their will and pleasure.

Q 11. Can you tell me if Mississippi is calling for AP art in the 2018 art and science adoption?

A. 11. Yes, AP titles for the Arts are included in the Arts adoption for 2018. The review committees will review AP titles according to the art discipline.

Q 12. The 2018 Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Science are quite different from the National Science Standards. The textbook that we have in and of itself for each grade level will probably not be 80% aligned to the Mississippi Standards. Is it possible for publishers to include a teacher resource guide to show how our program can be 80% aligned within the official bid and included in the Examination Copy materials for review?

A 12. Yes. Publishers are permitted to include any ancillary resources that will help the review committee see the entire scope of their programs for purposes of review on the actual bid, so long as it is not simply a repeat or reiteration of the same content in the teacher’s edition or pupil edition of the textbook that is bid.

Q 13. What is reasonable to include in the examination copy material concerning the science manipulatives or kits for grades K-8?

A. 13. Publishers are asked to submit for review only the most necessary contents of any K-8 science kits that will give the review committees a good understanding of the instructional program being bid. Once the Examination Copies are received by the Textbook Office (deadline September 22), they will be inspected for consistency and conciseness. Publishers will be notified if it is deemed that the examination copy material is excessive. Publishers will have the opportunity to present to the review committees the full scope of their materials at the State Rating Committee meetings on September 28-29, 2017.

Q 14. Will the prices listed on the Pricing Options Form be Contract prices, subject to the procurement rules of the State of Mississippi?

A 14. Yes, the prices listed on the Pricing Options Form will be contract prices, subject to the rules of procurement listed in the Call for Bids. Thus, publishers are encouraged to be as comprehensive as possible in the pricing options that are listed therein. Keep in mind that the state contract for adopted titles is a 5 year contract with an option for two more years. Therefore, price those items /materials/licenses/and services accordingly. The prices cannot change over the course of the contracted period, even if the contract is extended the optional years.

Q 15. Will professional development be a part of this adoption? If so do you want information on that to be submitted with the bid?

A 15. Professional development is expected as a part of what the publishers will provide in support of their products. The professional development offerings won't necessarily be needed for the review of the program, so it's not necessary for them to be listed on the official bid form (Form C) but should be listed in the free with order listings (Form D) of the Electronic Bid Packet.

Q 16. Will there be a caravan and/or presentation? If there is a caravan will it be for AP only or will it also be for on-level texts as well?

A 16. Yes, there will be a Textbook Caravan (refer to the Textbook Adoption Calendar for Publishers Listed in the Call for Bids). The Caravan will allow for publisher presentations for general and AP titles.

Q 17. Is Mississippi considered a closed state (blackout) during this review?

A 17. Yes. Publishers are to have no contact with districts for 35 days after the caravan. Please refer to the Textbook Adoption Calendar for Publishers in the Call for Bids.

Q. 18. I am getting ready to submit the Intent to Bid but just want to clarify that on Section Two Instructional Categories Indicate the Number of Products means titles not pricing options. Is that correct?

A 18. Yes. Pricing Options are to be submitted on the pricing options form found on the textbook website

Q. 19. Is the Instructional Category the same as the Grade Level?

A 19. The Instructional Categories are the 3 categories listed in the Call for bids – Dance and Theater k-12, Music (Instrumental, General, and Choral) K-12, and Visual Arts K-12.

Q 20. Please clarify – Publishers can only bid one textbook/program in each category. What does this mean? We have three titles – Painting, Photography and Drawing that we want to bid for High School Visual Arts grades 9-12. How do I do this?

A 20. The title constitutes a specific instructional program from a publisher, including series that span sequentially through the grades. This is mostly common in grades k-8. For high school electives, publishers can submit one title for each course, with AP versions of certain courses counting as separate courses.

Q 21. Do you have a sample completed bid to view?

A 21. The tighter bid guidelines are new for this year, but the PowerPoint from the Publisher's orientation meeting held on August 21st, 2017, found on the textbook website, lays out specifically the expectations for bid submission.

Q 22. Will the entire caravan be required or will we be able to attend on certain dates?

A 22. Publishers with adopted materials are not required to go on the caravan. But, should a company decide to go, they must agree to attend all sites.

Q 23. Would a submission that adheres to the NGSS standards be reviewed for the 80% rule or would you consider that an un-responsive submission?

A 23. All submissions will be reviewed for 80% alignment to the 2018 Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Science. Publishers are allowed to submit a correlation guide to show alignment to the Mississippi Standards. If the resource is not 80% aligned in the view of the review committee, it will not be adopted.

Q 24. I know districts are not required to procure off the State Adoption List, however, could districts be prevented from procuring if the titles were rejected by the adoption committee?

A 24. No. Districts make purchasing decisions concerning textbooks and other instructional materials. The State will not prevent any district from purchasing any material the district chooses to purchase.