



**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SPECIFICATIONS
FOR THE FLORIDA
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
ADOPTION**



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Introduction

The following policies and procedures have been approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to Rule 6A-7.0710, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), for use by state expert instructional materials reviewers, district reviewers and public reviewers who evaluate instructional materials and publishers who submit instructional materials for adoption.

In Florida, specific courses within selected subject areas and grade levels are called for adoption on a rotating basis, usually for a period of five years. Florida adopts instructional materials for those specific courses. Subject areas for the current adoption year and the adoption schedule are posted on the Florida Department of Education Office of Instructional Materials (OIM) website (referenced in footer).
<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials/>

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) publishes specifications for the subjects to be adopted. These specifications provide a summary of the courses, the standards that the materials are expected to meet, and applicable State Board of Education rule and Florida Statutes. Specifications can be downloaded from the OIM website.

Each section in this document contains information relative to the duties and responsibilities of each state expert instructional materials reviewer, district reviewer and publisher submitting material for the adoption.

Specific to the English Language Arts Adoptions

Section 1001.215, F.S., dealing with the Just Read, Florida! Office, requires that the Office through the Department:

(4) Develop and provide access to an online repository of digital science of reading and science of reading instructional resources, sequenced, content-rich curriculum programming, instructional practices, and other resources that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional materials to increase students' background knowledge and literacy skills, including student attainment of the state standards for social studies, science, and the arts. The office shall, as part of the adoption cycle for English Language Arts instructional materials, assist in evaluating elementary grades instructional materials submitted for adoption consideration in order to identify those materials that are closely aligned to the content and evidence-based strategies identified pursuant to subsection (7) and incorporate professional development to implement such strategies.

(7) Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to identify scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional and intervention programs grounded in the science of reading which incorporate explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text instructional strategies. Reading intervention includes evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and includes, but is not limited to, individual instruction, multisensory approaches, tutoring, mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific reading skills and abilities. The primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. The identified reading instructional and intervention programs for foundational skills may not include strategies that employ the three-cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading. Such programs may include visual information and strategies that improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to

support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading.

In 2020, the State Board of Education amended Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Student Performance Standards, to adopt the B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) for Grades K-12. Instructional materials are expected to align to all course-associated benchmarks and course descriptions.

Specific to Mathematics Education

In 2020, the State Board of Education amended Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Student Performance Standards, to adopt the B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) Standards for Mathematics for Grades K-12. Instructional materials are expected to align to all course-associated benchmarks and course descriptions.

Specific to M/J Civics Education

In compliance to s. 1003.4156(1)(c), F.S., instructional materials for civics education are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner in consultation with civics organizations and stakeholders.

Relationship between Publishers and State Expert Instructional Materials Reviewers/District School Officials

The relationship between the state expert instructional materials reviewers and the publishers shall be in compliance with s. 1006.30, F.S.

The relationship between district school board officials, including school officers, instructional personnel and administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01, F.S., and the publishers shall be in compliance with s. 1006.32, F.S.

For purposes of s. 1006.32(3), F.S., a “pilot program” is defined as an arrangement in which a school or school district accepts instructional materials from a publisher who will bid those materials in the subsequent adoption either on loan, for free or at a reduced price, within eighteen months prior to the April 1 adoption date.

Publishers should be advised that it is unlawful for any superintendent, school board member or any person officially connected with the government of or direction of public schools, or teacher thereof, to be involved in the sale or promotion of instructional materials, pursuant to s. 1006.32, F.S.

State Expert Instructional Materials Reviewers and District Reviewers

The Commissioner of Education shall appoint three state expert instructional materials reviewers in the content areas submitted for adoption to review each of the instructional materials bid for adoption and evaluate the content for alignment with the applicable standards and benchmarks. For the materials which the first two state expert instructional materials reviewers agree to recommend or not recommend for adoption, an evaluation by the third reviewer will not be required. An evaluation by the third reviewer will only be required for situations in which the first two reviewers disagree as to whether materials should be recommended for adoption. Instructional materials shall be made available electronically to the state expert instructional materials reviewers, who shall complete an electronic evaluation of the items to assess

whether the materials align to the applicable standards and benchmarks. State instructional materials reviewers will be paid a stipend, pursuant to s. 1006.29(1)(d), F.S.

District Reviewers

The Commissioner of Education shall request each school district superintendent to nominate one classroom teacher or district-level content supervisor to review two or three of the submissions recommended by the state expert instructional materials reviewers. District reviewers shall be provided electronic access to two or three recommended submissions and shall complete an electronic evaluation of the instructional usability of the materials.

Reviewer Training

Pursuant to s. 1006.29(5), F.S., the FDOE developed a training program for the state expert instructional materials reviewers and district reviewers. Each adoption year, all state expert instructional materials reviewers must complete the training prior to evaluating the instructional materials. Details will be posted on the OIM website. Training includes content on the use of the online evaluation system and content directly related to the standards and benchmarks relevant to the current instructional materials adoption.

Evaluation of Materials

For submissions bid as a series, such as a K-5 series, the OIM may, if necessitated by the amount of content required for review, divide a submission by grade level, or another appropriate manner, for reviewers to evaluate. In such cases, the reviewers will evaluate all materials which they are assigned, and OIM will establish criteria for determining whether the submission as a whole meets the requirements for recommendation.

Only electronic or digital sample copies of the major tool of instruction will be evaluated for adoption, except during adoptions in which ancillary materials are instrumental to the content area. For these adoptions, the OIM will instruct the publishers on the number and types of ancillary materials allowable for review.

To complete the evaluation process, reviewers will receive electronic access to the following materials:

- Instructional Materials Specifications – The specifications describe the courses for which materials are being sought, as well as cite the standards and benchmarks that the instructional materials are expected to meet. In addition, they contain the research base that outlines the components of effective instructional materials.
- The following forms prepared by the publisher:
 - Standards Alignment Form IM7 – Standards and benchmarks alignments assist the FDOE and the reviewers in determining the degree to which submitted materials meet the requirements, intended outcomes and/or objectives of a course.

- Publisher’s Questionnaire Form IM8 – The questionnaire describes and identifies the components of the program submitted in the publisher’s instructional materials bid.
- Universal Design for Learning Form IM12 – The form provides information on presentation, navigation, study tool and assistive technology supports that allow the material to be accessible to all students.
- Correlation Forms Required in the Specifications – Correlation forms to support the FDOE and the reviewers in determining the degree to which submitted materials meet the program design of a course as listed in the specifications.

Publishers may provide a 15-minute virtual presentation to the state expert instructional materials reviewers on the merits of the materials submitted for adoption. This virtual presentation is prerecorded and accessible to reviewers on the sample website.

After their evaluation is complete, the state expert instructional materials reviewers will make a recommendation of whether or not to adopt the instructional materials. Materials which have been recommended by the state expert instructional materials reviewers will then be made available for electronic review by the district reviewers. The district reviewers shall independently rate the recommended submissions on the instructional usability of the resources and provide an electronic evaluation to the OIM.

Once the submitted instructional materials are reviewed by the state expert reviewers, they will be rated based on the rubric provided to each reviewer using a five-point Likert scale. The rubric instructs each reviewer to provide a rating of each standard and benchmark ranging from Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor/No Alignment. The rating scale also provides a numerical equivalent to each rating, i.e., Very Good = 5, Good = 4, Fair = 3, Poor = 2 and Very Poor/No Alignment = 1. The ratings for the subject-specific standards and benchmarks will be averaged per standard or benchmark. An average rating of 4-Good or above, or at least 90% of the subject-specific standards and benchmarks, are expected to rank at an average of 4-Good or 5-Very Good. The reviewer will use a “Yes/No” scale when evaluating instructional materials for compliance to applicable State Board of Education rule and Florida Statutes.

The reviewer-recommended bids that retain a ratings average of Good or above, or 90% or above of a Good to Very Good for their subject-specific standards and benchmarks, will remain on the recommended list for state adoption that is presented to the Commissioner of Education for final review. Reviewer-recommended bids that do not retain a ratings average of Good or above, or 90% or above for subject-specific standards and benchmarks will be presented to the Commissioner of Education in their own report for consideration.

Public Review – The general public will be allowed electronic access to review instructional materials submitted for adoption. Access to the materials will be granted via the process outlined below.

- Materials which have been recommended for adoption by the state expert instructional materials reviewers will be made available electronically through the online evaluation system.
- Any member of the general public wishing to view the recommended materials may request

registration as a guest user on the OIM online evaluation system.

- The guest user will then be notified that access to the requested materials has been granted.
- The evaluation instrument, which allows the user to complete an online evaluation with comments, will be available for submission on reviewed materials.
- Access to the requested materials will be available via the online evaluation system for two weeks (14 calendar days).

After the two-week period has ended, access to the materials will be blocked. Any subsequent access will require an additional request to the OIM at 850-245-0425 or via email at IMStaff@fldoe.org.

The Commissioner of Education shall review the evaluations of the state expert instructional materials reviewers and district reviewers, consider the costs of the materials and public feedback, and then approve, reject or amend the list of materials.

Instructions to Bidders/Publishers

The FDOE shall publish the specifications for the subjects to be adopted. These specifications refer to the criteria, standards, benchmarks and/or course descriptions for each course for which instructional materials are to be adopted. In addition, these specifications provide information about the kinds of materials that are desired, the grade levels for which the materials should be designed and the research findings about what makes instructional materials effective.

<http://www.firm.edu/doe/instmat/home0015.htm>

Bidders shall examine the instructional materials specifications to determine whether they have products that cover the criteria, standards, benchmarks and/or course descriptions, can be used as a major tool for teaching the course as referenced in Part I of the Introduction and adhere to all applicable State Board of Education rule and Florida Statutes. These specifications may be found on the OIM website.

Adoption Disqualification Criteria

Each year, some publishers are disqualified from participation due to failure to comply with the bidding requirements established in this document. It is highly recommended that publishers carefully review all the policies and procedures herein prior to submitting a bid. The OIM may waive minor formalities or irregularities in proposals received where such is merely a matter of form and not substance, and the correction or waiver of which is not substantially prejudicial to other bidders. Minor irregularities are defined as those which do not have adverse effects on OIM interests and do not affect the price of the proposal by giving a bidder an advantage or benefit not enjoyed by other bidders.

Specific to the K-5 English Language Arts (ELA) Adoption

In order to build background knowledge and literacy skills, pursuant to s. 1001.215(4), F.S., materials should implement a 50/50 split of informational and literary texts. Fifty percent of the instructional materials text should be informational and aligned to grade level Florida course standards in social studies, science and the arts, as noted in the ELA specifications. Acceptable text types for informational texts include primary sources, secondary sources, functional materials and literary nonfiction. The

remaining fifty percent should be literary fiction. Topics for non-fiction or cross-curricular literature should include topics/benchmarks as identified in the [Florida Assessment of Student Thinking \(FAST\) Assessments guidelines](#), by grade level. It is expected that every topic listed in the specifications document will be covered, and a balanced coverage of the arts will be included in both informational and literary texts.

In addition, a comprehensive K-2, 3-5 or K-5 reading component of the ELA program series will contain systematic [sequential], explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, and incorporate decodable or phonetic text instructional strategies to include meaningful experiences with excellent literature and informational text to build comprehension and enjoyment of print.

Specific to All Subject Areas

Publishers will be expected to create correlation documents to include all requested areas of the Program Design as listed in the specifications document.

General Information

Florida adopts the major tool of instruction, along with priced ancillary materials which are designed to work with the major tool. The major tool is comprised only of items necessary to meet the standards and benchmarks in the course description of the course or subject for which it is designed and submitted. Major tools must also be made available as separate and unbundled items, each priced individually. Ancillary materials, while not necessary to meet the course requirements, are designed to enhance the major tool.

All Florida instructional materials adoptions are dependent upon statutory authority, adequate funding and the ability of the department to secure a sufficient number of qualified reviewers to perform the required evaluations.

For purposes of state adoption, the following definitions apply:

- “Instructional materials,” as provided in s. 1006.29(2), F.S., means items having intellectual content that by design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course. These items may be available in bound, unbound, kit or package form and may consist of hardbacked or softbacked textbooks, electronic content, consumables, learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media and computer courseware or software. A publisher or manufacturer providing instructional materials as a single bundle shall also make the instructional materials available as separate and unbundled items, each priced individually. A publisher may also offer sections of state-adopted instructional materials in digital or electronic versions at reduced rates to districts, schools and teachers.
- “Major tool” refers to:
 - Materials that provide instructional content and student learning activities for each of the Florida state academic standards that are in the course descriptions for reading, language arts, literature, math, science, social studies, physical education, health, world

languages, visual arts and performing arts; and

- Materials that provide instructional content and student learning activities for each of the intended outcomes and/or student performance standards of the Career and Technical Education Curriculum Frameworks.
- “Ancillaries” are those items that were designed to work with the major tool and may be priced or free with order.
- “Supplementary” materials are defined as supporting materials that do not qualify as the major tool and are not designed to accompany the specific major tool with which they were submitted, but could be used with any publisher’s materials. Florida does not have a process for the adoption of supplementary materials.

All materials that are considered during adoption of the major tool, regardless of price, must be provided upon award of the contract.

Items not eligible for bid include supplementary materials, professional development, equipment and supplies. Supplementary materials are defined as supporting materials that do not qualify as the major tool and are not designed to accompany the specific major tool with which they were submitted, but may be used with any publisher’s materials. Equipment and supplies refer to anything that does not have intellectual content. Examples of items from previous bids that will be removed from the bid unless offered free are: Word Wall Charts, Hanging Vinyl Charts with Pockets, Writing Folders, Cumulative Folders, Page Protectors, Skills Profile Folders and Website Resource Cards.

Submissions that are comprised of two or more independent, stand-alone programs are not acceptable for adoption consideration.

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, all adopted instructional materials for students in kindergarten through Grade 12 must be provided in an electronic or digital format:

- “Electronic format” means text-based or image-based content in a form that is produced on, published by and readable on computers or other digital devices and is an electronic version of a printed book, whether or not any printed equivalent exists.
- “Digital format” means text-based or image-based content in a form that provides the student with various interactive functions; that can be searched, tagged, distributed and used for individualized and group learning; that includes multimedia content such as video clips, animations and virtual reality; and that has the ability to be accessed at anytime and anywhere.

The terms do not include electronic or computer hardware even if such hardware is bundled with software or other electronic media, nor does it include equipment or supplies.

Procedures for Submitting Materials for Adoption

The OIM will issue bid calls in alignment with the adoption cycle. If the call includes a series, such as an elementary series, Grades K-5, then all levels of the elementary series, Grades K-5 materials should

be bid as one submission but should also be made available as separate items.

Questions regarding these requirements and all forms and documents required in this process should be addressed to the Office of Instructional Materials in the FDOE. Contact information is located on the final page of this document.

Intent to Bid, Form IM1

Beginning with the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, publishers must submit an Intent to Bid using the online Instructional Materials Adoption Portal found on the OIM website no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in July of the adoption year.¹ All items specified on the Intent to Bid form should be provided. Submitting an Intent to Bid in no way obligates the publisher to participate in the adoption process. Publishers are encouraged to be as accurate as possible when submitting an Intent to Bid because this information is used to determine the appropriate number of reviewers for each subject area. One product cannot be submitted to multiple bids. Publishers can revise or delete an Intent to Bid. After the deadline, an Intent to Bid cannot be deleted.

Bid Deposit, Form IM2

Florida law requires bidders to place a bid deposit with the FDOE. The amount of the deposit is \$500 for each submission, with a maximum of \$2,500 for five or more submissions, pursuant to s. 1006.33(3), F.S. Deposits must be submitted in the form of a cashier's check (drawn on a bank, not the company account) or money order. Checks must be made out to the Florida Department of Education and must reference the company name as listed in the publisher registration.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, bid deposits must be received in the Office of Instructional Materials in the FDOE no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in August of the adoption year. The bid deposit must be in a separate envelope marked "Adoption Bid Deposit" from the sealed bid. The mailing address is located on the contact page at the end of this document.

The OIM reserves the right to reject any bid that fails to comply with the bid deposit requirements or to meet the stated deadline.

Return of Bid Deposit

In order to have the bid deposit returned, publishers/vendors must have on file with the Department of Financial Services a Substitute W-9 Form (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form, Internal Revenue Service). The Substitute W-9 Form must be completed online.

Please view the State of Florida Vendor Website at <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com> to receive the latest information and step-by-step instructions on how to register and complete a Substitute Form W-9 online. Any questions regarding the Substitute Form W-9 should be directed to the Department of Financial Services Vendor Management Section at 850-413-5519 or via email at FLW9@myfloridacfo.com.

The bid deposit will be returned to unsuccessful bidders as soon as practicable following the completed adoption of state instructional materials. In the event a successful bidder fails to execute the contract and/or furnish a surety bond within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the contract, the bid deposit

will be forfeited to the State of Florida, pursuant to s. 1006.33(3), F.S.

Bid Forms or Proposals, Forms IM3 and IM4

Beginning with the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, sealed bids, including the Signature Sheet Form IM3 and Detailed Bid(s) Form IM4, must be received in the Office of Instructional Materials in the FDOE no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in August of the adoption year. Bids received after that time will be rejected and returned to the bidder. The bid deadline will not be extended. After the bid deadline, publishers will not be allowed to revise a bid except for the reduction of price and/or the addition of free items offered.

The bid must be submitted on the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website and printed. Submitted bid(s) can be withdrawn once saved, but not deleted. A request to IMStaff@fldoe.org must be submitted if an item needs to be removed. Once the request to remove the item has been sent, the OIM staff will then remove the item(s). Changes will not be made to submitted bids until the end of the adoption process.

For a bid to be acceptable, all items of information specified on the Bid Form must be provided.

- The signature page, printed at the Instructional Materials Publisher Registration and Bid Process website, must bear the original signature of an authorized company officer. The signature page must clearly list each bid submitted.
- The bid must state the lowest wholesale price at which the materials will be furnished at the contract start date. Variations in price based on volume purchase are not acceptable.
- A publisher or manufacturer providing instructional materials as a single bundle must also make the instructional materials available as separate and unbundled items, each priced individually. The aggregate cost of the unbundled items if purchased separately must not exceed the cost of the items if purchased as a single bundle.
- All adopted instructional materials for students in kindergarten through Grade 12 must be provided in an electronic or digital format, pursuant to s. 1006.29(3), F.S.
- Materials bid for adoption must be in final form in time for sampling. If final form will not be ready in time to meet the sampling deadline, the publisher may not submit a bid for those materials.
- Materials bid for adoption must be available for the life of the contract period. Publishers may not specify that an item will only be available for specified years of the contract. For example: “State Specific version available first three years of the contract, national thereafter”, pursuant to s. 1006.38(12) and (13), F.S.
- Publishers are required to provide any instructional materials free of charge in Florida to the same extent as that received by any other state or school district in the United States, pursuant to s. 1006.38(7), F.S. These free items must be appropriately identified on the Bid Form.
- Free offers that give the teacher, school or district a specified dollar amount of items from the

publisher's complete catalog will not be accepted.

- The bid, which includes the Signature Sheet and Detailed Bid(s), must be sealed separately from all other items and must be in an envelope marked "SEALED BID" with the company name also clearly marked on the outside of the envelope.

All materials bid for adoption must include the capability to be searched by Florida state academic standards.

Bid Opening

Bids will be opened within 21 days of the bid deadline. The date, time and location of the bid opening will be posted on the OIM website. Bidders and their representatives may be present, but attendance is optional. The list of bidders and bid materials will be made available on the OIM website.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, a hard copy of the following forms printed from the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website must be received in the Office of Instructional Materials in the FDOE no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in August of the adoption year. The mailing address is the same as the one for bids.¹

Publisher Registration, Form IM5

The FDOE requires bidders to register the names and addresses of representatives, agents or other persons retained for legal or other services to which there will be paid any salary, commission or royalty for representing the bidder in the state of Florida during the adoption period. The bidder should register these persons by completing the Publisher Registration using the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website and adding these persons to the publisher contact section provided.

Publishers are required to keep the online registration up-to-date when staffing changes occur.

Publisher Acknowledgment, Form IM6

Publishers and their representatives shall submit to the FDOE a signed form developed by the FDOE acknowledging State Board of Education rule and Florida Statutes associated with the instructional materials adoption process. These forms must be printed for each representative registered using the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website.

If additional representatives are added at any time during the adoption period, the publisher is required to submit signed acknowledgements for these individuals and update the online Publisher Registration in a timely manner.

Standards Alignment, Form IM7

Bidders are required to provide standards alignments of submitted materials to Florida state academic

¹ For the 2025-2026 adoption, FDOE will post the submission due dates on the OIM website:

standards listed in the course descriptions. To determine which alignments are required for each subject or course and to download the required form(s), refer to the Publisher Timeline and Checklist and Subject Area Specifications found at the OIM website. The standards alignments must be submitted on the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website in the Bid Details Standards Alignment (IM7) section. The complete alignment information must be entered into the site before printing.

Alignments must relate each desired outcome to the page(s) or location(s) in which the material is taught.

- The Standards Alignment must be made available as part of the sample materials hosted and posted by the publisher.
- Materials bid must be searchable by the standards.

Failure to comply with the requirements for furnishing the Publisher's Questionnaire and Standards Alignment(s) according to instructions and/or failure to meet the stated deadlines shall result in rejection of the bid.

Publishers for the K-5 ELA adoption will be expected to create a correlation document to include a listing of subject, with topic, and its corresponding text in the materials. Topic correlations should also include percentage of coverage for each topic. This information will be provided to reviewers as part of Standards Alignment for ELA.

Publisher's Questionnaire, Form IM8

The Publisher's Questionnaire must be completed for each submission. If the submission is a series, then one questionnaire must be completed for the entire series. This required document includes a request for a description of the submitted program. This description must include information about the educational approach of the program, not merely list the materials submitted.

The Publisher's Questionnaire will be completed using the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website in the Bid Details section. The completed questionnaire must be printed and include the preparer's original signature.

The Publisher's Questionnaire will be made available electronically to each assigned state instructional materials reviewer.

Warranty of Publisher, Form IM9

Warranty Forms are required to be submitted for all major tool items designed for student use. The Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks (MSST) (2009 Revised Edition), developed by the State Instructional Materials Review Association (SIMRA), are the official minimum standards and specifications for Florida. Electronic media must meet or exceed these standards and specifications in order to be considered for adoption.

Bidders submitting electronic media (such as video or audiotapes or discs, and computer software on DVD or CD ROM) for adoption will use Form M (Statement of Publisher Submitting Electronic Media for Adoption).

A copy of the MSST is open for inspection in the Office of Instructional Materials in the FDOE, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

Publishers are encouraged to have their manufacturer or other person within the company who is familiar with the MSST complete the warranty form(s). Failure to comply with the requirements for furnishing Form M for electronic media, and/or an MSLA for online materials and/or failure to meet the stated deadline shall result in rejection of the bid.

Universal Design for Learning, Form IM12

Pursuant to s. 1006.29(3), F.S., all adopted instructional materials for students in kindergarten through Grade 12 must be provided in an electronic or digital format. Digital or electronic materials that are bid should include commonly accepted presentation, navigation, study tool and assistive technology supports that allow the material to be accessible to all students. Bidders are therefore required to complete and submit the State of Florida Instructional Materials Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Form (Form IM12) for each major tool. The form must be completed using the Instructional Materials Adoption Portal website in the Bid Details section and printed. It must also be made available as part of the sample materials hosted and posted by the publisher.

Failure to comply with the requirements for furnishing the UDL form according to instructions or failure to meet the stated deadlines shall result in rejection of the bid.

Assessment and Collection of Fees, Form IM13

In accordance with s. 1006.29(1)(d), F.S., the FDOE may assess and collect fees from publishers participating in the instructional materials approval process. The monies collected will be used to pay a stipend to state instructional materials reviewers. For the purposes of adoption, the FDOE will require a fee of \$1000 for each material submitted by a publisher for review. The amount collected will be posted on the OIM website. Any portion of the monies not spent during the adoption will be returned to publishers as soon as practicable following the completed adoption of state instructional materials.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, fees must be submitted as part of the sealed bid, no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in August of the adoption year, in the form of a cashier's check (drawn on a bank, not the company account) or money order. Checks must be made out to the Florida Department of Education and must reference the company name as listed in the publisher registration. These fees must be a separate check in an envelope marked "Adoption Fees" and not combined with the bid deposit.²

The OIM reserves the right to reject any bid that fails to comply with these fee requirements.

² For the 2025-2026 adoption, FDOE will post the submission due dates on the OIM website:

Standards Alignment Assurance (Form IM14), No Common Core and Common Core Standards Assurance (Form IM18), Principles of Individual Freedom Assurance for Publishers (Form IM19)

A signed Standards Alignment Assurance (Form IM14) may be submitted that covers all bid materials. Publishers signing this form attest that all bid materials will be updated to reflect any new content standards, which may be adopted within the contract period, within nine months of their adoption by the State Board of Education. Those publishers not providing a signed Standards Alignment Assurance form may have their materials removed from the adopted list, and their contracts nullified, at the point that new content standards are adopted in the bid content area.

The published adopted list will reflect those publishers who have provided the Standards Alignment Assurance form to the department.

A signed No Common Core and Common Core Standards Assurance (Form IM18) must be submitted that covers all bid materials. Publishers signing this form agree that there are no references to the “Common Core” or the “Common Core Standards” within the major tool materials submitted for review to be state adopted.

A signed Principles of Individual Freedom Assurance for Publishers (Form IM19) assures that the instructional materials submitted by a publisher for review to be state adopted are consistent with s. 1003.42(2), F.S.

Failure to comply with the requirements for furnishing these Assurance forms according to instructions or failure to meet the stated deadlines shall result in rejection of the bid.

Procedures for Providing Evaluation Samples

Publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials, or their representatives, shall provide electronic access to sample copies to the OIM and each state expert instructional materials reviewer and subsequent district reviewer, pursuant to s. 1006.38(2), F.S. Only the student and teacher editions of the major tool, in electronic or digital format as defined in s. 1006.29(3), F.S., will be reviewed for adoption, except during adoptions in which ancillary materials are instrumental to the content area. For these adoptions, the OIM will instruct the publishers as to the number of ancillary materials allowable for review.

All electronic samples must include a:

- bid number;
- unique ISBN number;
- title of the materials; and
- instructions for accessing or viewing the materials.

Publishers are required to host the sample materials for the duration of the adoption cycle. Publishers are strongly encouraged to develop samples which are easily accessible and navigable by reviewers. Difficulty in accessing or navigating the samples may be taken into consideration by reviewers when making their recommendation for or against adoption. The publisher’s name and title of products should be consistent on all adoption materials, and most importantly, the samples posted on the publisher’s website. All sample materials must contain the bid number, unique ISBN number and title of materials

for each bid.

Furthermore, samples which have recurrent problems or issues which hinder or prevent reviewers from accessing the materials may be disqualified from the bid process. The FDOEIM office expects samples and materials developed for adoption to be thoroughly tested and ready for review. Samples with issues which delay or prevent evaluation may be deemed as deficient and, therefore, not acceptable as the basis of review for adoption.

The OIM will provide access to the reviewers via the FDOEIM online evaluation system.

Failure to comply with these sampling requirements shall result in rejection of the bid.

Publisher Instructional Materials to Sample

Publishers are required to host the sample materials which include: special instructions, written correlations, publisher's presentation, UDL document and samples of the major tool (student edition and teacher edition) in an electronic or digital format.

These samples must be in final form, i.e., must be the product that will be available to districts, and must be hosted and active for the duration of the adoption period as specified by the OIM. Beginning with the 2025-2026 instructional materials adoption cycle and thereafter, in addition to providing access to sample materials, publishers are required to provide sample materials to the OIM in an electronic format on a flash drive as detailed on page 9 of this Policies and Procedures document. These sample documents will be retained by the OIM during the adoption process.³

Deadline for Receipt of Samples

Beginning in the 2026-2027 adoption and thereafter, publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials, or their representatives, shall electronically deliver fully developed sample copies and provide electronic access to sample copies of the student and teacher editions of the major tool to the OIM by 5:00 p.m. EDT on the second Friday in September of the adoption year.⁴

State Adoption of Materials

When all bids or proposals have been carefully considered, the Commissioner of Education shall select and adopt instructional materials from the list recommended by the state expert instructional materials reviewers. Under law, due consideration is given to the prices which have been quoted and to the reports of the state instructional materials reviewers. The Commissioner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or proposals and may also call for new bids or proposals.

³ For the 2025-2026 adoption, FDOE will post the submission due dates on the OIM website:
<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials/>.

⁴ For the 2025-2026 adoption, FDOE will post the submission due dates on the OIM website:
<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials/>.

Interoperability Requirements

The digital instructional materials bid for adoption must be interoperable on commonly available mobile and desktop digital devices, using industry standard protocols such as EPUB or IMS Learning Tools. The digital instructional materials must be accessible through a school districts' digital learning and technology infrastructure. Publishers are encouraged to provide digital materials that comply with IMS global standards, including the Learning Information Services specifications, in order to ensure interoperability with a wide variety of platforms.

Contracts

The term of adoption for instructional materials for the current adoption year will be posted on the FLIM Portal.

Upon agreement between the FDOE and the publisher, a contract may be extended or shortened for an additional one or two years, pursuant to s. 1006.34(3), F.S. A sample contract can be obtained on the FLIM Portal.

All contracts will require that the FDOE and each adopting district be provided with access to sample copies for the purpose of public inspection as provided in s. 1006.33(4), F.S.

Surety Bond Amounts

Any publisher or manufacturer to whom any contract is let under this part must give bond in such amount, as the FDOE requires, payable to the state, conditioned for the faithful, honest and exact performance of the contract, pursuant to s. 1006.34(3), F.S.

The surety bond amount is:

- \$5,000 per single item.
- \$10,000 per series up to \$25,000.

The bond must provide for the payment of reasonable attorney's fees in case of recovery in any suit thereon. The surety on the bond must be a guaranty or surety company lawfully authorized to do business in the state; however, the bond shall not be exhausted by a single recovery but may be sued upon from time to time until the full amount thereof is recovered. The OIM may at any time, after giving 30 days' notice, require additional security or additional bond.

The form of any bond or bonds or contract or contracts under this part shall be prepared and approved by the OIM.

At the discretion of the OIM, a publisher or manufacturer to whom any contract is let under this part may be allowed a cash deposit in lieu of a bond, conditioned for the faithful, honest and exact performance of the contract. The cash deposit, payable to the Florida Department of Education, shall be placed in the Textbook Bid Trust Fund. The OIM may recover damages on the cash deposit given by the contractor for failure to furnish instructional materials, the sum recovered to inure to the General Revenue Fund.

A sample of the Publisher Surety Bond Form and Sworn Statement Form can be obtained on the FLIM Portal.

Appeals

Publishers may seek to challenge the adoption list or the adoption process. Pursuant to Chapter 120, F.S., and Rule 28-106, F.A.C., a company has twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the notice within which to request, by written petition, meeting the requirements set forth in Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., an opportunity for a hearing.

Any such petitions should be sent to FDOE, Room 1514 Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

Substitution Policies and Procedures, Form IM17

Publishers may request permission to substitute editions of adopted materials as follows:

- Publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials currently under adoption in Florida may request permission to substitute for any such instructional materials on a current contract, using Form IM17, Substitution Policies and Procedures.
- The substitution must be a revised edition which corrects or updates content; provided that the revised edition can be used satisfactorily with the currently adopted edition simultaneously in the same classroom; is identical, equal or superior to the specifications of the currently adopted edition; and is available at no increase in price.
- As all materials bid must be available in electronic or digital format all substitution analyses will be performed on the electronic or digital materials. Each request shall be accompanied by access information to the currently adopted materials, access information to the revised materials, and access to an online copy of a detailed analysis of each change in the revised materials indicating precisely where the changes occur. This analysis shall include all changes in content, illustrations, embedded videos, hyperlinks and platform specifications. Information and logins for access to electronic or digital components must be sent to IMStaff@fldoe.org.
 - Each request shall be filed in writing with the Director of Instructional Materials, who shall forward the request with a recommendation to the Bureau Chief of Standards and Instructional Support.
 - Materials may not be substituted within the first six months of the contract.

Any substitution which is approved shall be effective on the date the action is taken by the OIM.

Furnishing of Sample Student Materials

In 2024, s. 1006.38, F.S., was amended to require that publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials, or their representatives, make sample student editions of instructional materials on the commissioner's list of state-adopted instructional materials electronically available, at a discount below publisher cost, for use by teacher preparation programs and by educator preparation institutes as defined in

ss. 1004.04 and 1004.85(1), F.S., respectively, for each adoption cycle, to enable educators to practice teaching with currently adopted instructional materials aligned to Florida state academic standards.

Contact Information and Link

Florida Department of Education

Office of Instructional Materials

325 W. Gaines Street – Suite 432 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

850-245-0425 Office

850-245-0826 Fax

IMStaff@fldoe.org

Instructional Materials Website

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials>

Instructional Materials Adoption Portal

<https://www.flimadoption.org>

State of Florida Vendor Website

<https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>