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The Curriculum Frameworks And Instructional Materials Adoption Processes

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:
Senate Education Committee
Hon. Alan Lowenthal, Chair



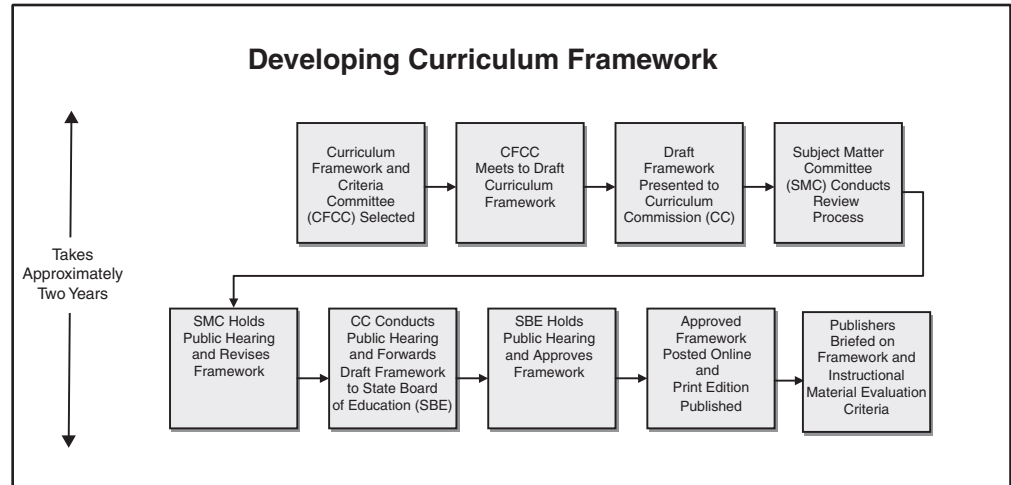


California Has K-12 Academic Content Standards

- Chapter 975, Statutes of 1995 (AB 265, Alpert), created the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards.
- In 1998, the commission developed academic content standards for English-Language Arts, Mathematics, History-Social Science, and Science.
- State now also has content standards for English Language Development, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages, Career Technical Education, Physical Education, and Health Education.



California Requires Curriculum Frameworks to Be Developed



- ☑ Curriculum frameworks provide guidance on how to teach each content standard in a given subject.
- ☑ Includes information on instructional approaches for helping students master content standards, appropriate professional development, and requirements for instructional materials.

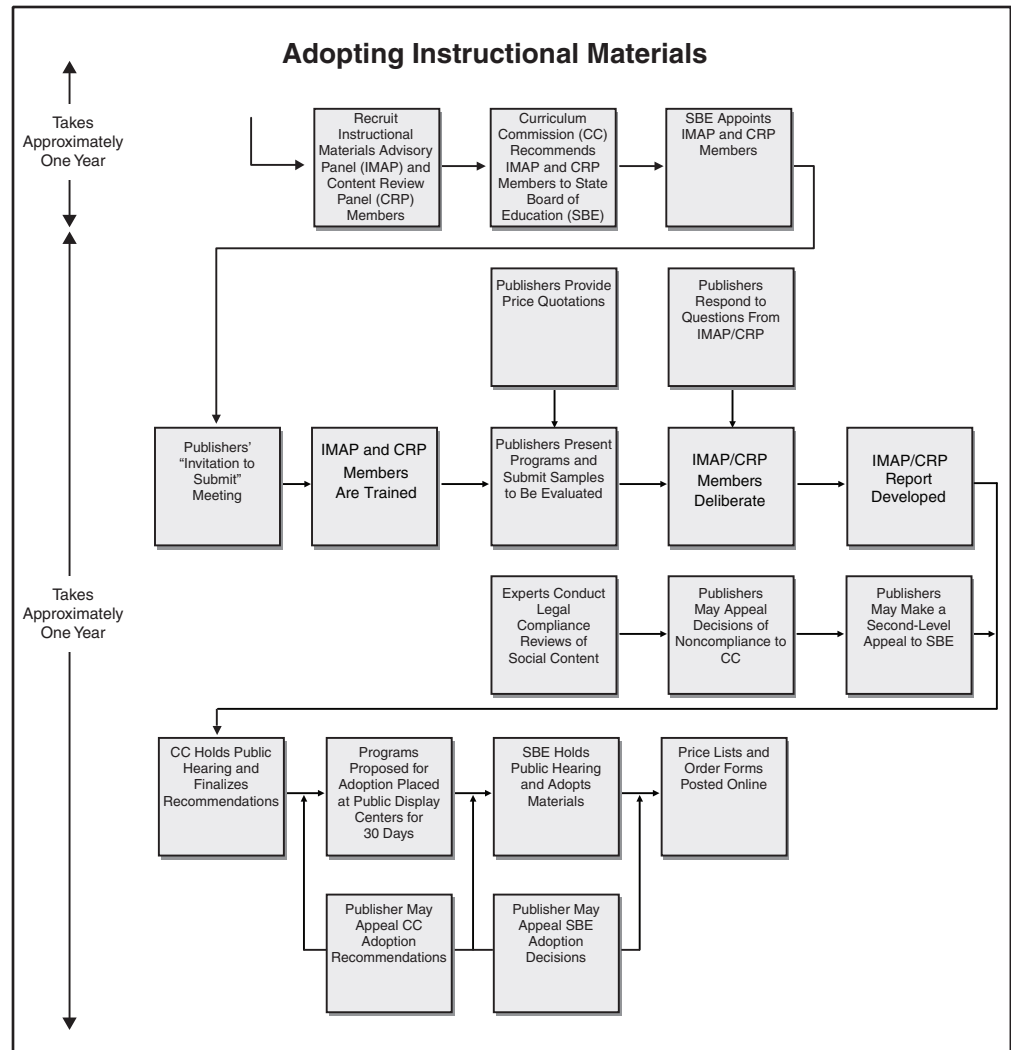


California Requires Instructional Materials To Be Aligned With Standards, Frameworks

- Chapter 481, Statutes of 1998 (AB 2519, Poochigian), requires the State Board of Education to adopt standards-aligned instructional materials for grades K-8.
- State adopts new materials for each subject area every six years.
- School districts must purchase new materials within 24 months of a state adoption.
- Staggered adoption cycle—requires school districts to purchase new materials virtually every year.
- Instructional materials evaluated based on academic content standards, curriculum frameworks, program/evaluation criteria, and social content standards.
- Two basic groups involved in evaluating materials:
 - Instructional Materials Advisory Panel consists mostly of K-12 teachers, but may also include school administrators, curriculum experts, and parents.
 - Content Review Panel consists of subject matter experts, often with doctoral degrees.
- The state-level adoption process exists only for K-8 materials. High school instructional materials are adopted by local governing boards.
- Most states (30 out of 50) use a local-level selection process for instructional materials. California is the only state with a “hybrid” process—a state adoption process for K-8 and a local-level selection process for high school.



California Has Lengthy, Elaborate Instructional Materials Adoption Process





Processes Currently Suspended

- As part of the February 2009 budget agreement, the state suspended the instructional materials adoption process until 2013-14.
 - Consequently, the curriculum frameworks process also has been suspended.
 - School districts can continue to use previously adopted textbooks.
 - Instructional Materials Block Grant funds are “flexed”—can be used for any educational purpose.

- The Governor’s budget proposes to suspend the adoption process (and consequently, the frameworks process) for two additional years, until 2015-16.

- If the state were to resurrect its existing processes, it would need to begin developing curriculum frameworks a few years before adoption process resumes.



Issues for Legislative Consideration— Interaction With Common Core Standards



Curriculum Frameworks

- Should California continue developing curriculum frameworks?
- What would be the objective of the frameworks?
- Could educators rely on frameworks developed in other states and/or nationally?
- If developed, who should bear the cost of development?
- Should the frameworks be offered to school districts free of charge?



Instructional Materials

- Will the federal government ensure that instructional materials are aligned to the Common Core Standards?
- Should the state modify its current instructional material adoption process as Common Core Standards are implemented?
- Would California school districts benefit from a national market for instructional materials (more choice, lower cost, better quality)?
- Should California have different instructional material requirements for elementary and secondary schools?