

REPORT ON TEXTBOOKS
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO THE GOVERNOR
And
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 15

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply

Richmond

1970

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
Richmond

January 14, 1970

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA:

I transmit for your information the Report on Textbooks of the State Department of Education made pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 51, 1968 Acts of Assembly.

MILLS E. GODWIN, JR.
Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richmond, 23216

November 10, 1969

THE HONORABLE MILLS E. GODWIN, JR., *Governor of Virginia*

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Senate Joint Resolution No. 51 offered February 20, 1968, reads in part as follows:

“Resolved by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly requests that the State Department of Education furnish the following information to the Governor and General Assembly: first, how each school district presently furnishes textbooks, whether free of cost or on a rental basis; second, present costs to the respective localities and the State; third, the complete cost to the State of assuming financial responsibility for furnishing approved textbooks free of cost to all students in the public schools, kindergarten through grade twelve; fourth, a recommendation to implement the furnishing of free textbooks through a program of the State providing the same and/or the State and the localities providing the same; and fifth, the projected costs during the next six years to provide said textbooks.”

Pursuant to this resolution, I am pleased to transmit herewith the report of the Department of Education. It is sincerely hoped that this report will serve the intended purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODROW W. WILKERSON
Superintendent of Public Instruction

REPORT ON TEXTBOOKS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education has conducted a survey as to the method by which each county and city furnishes textbooks, total disbursements for operating textbook systems, and State aid to localities for rental and/or free textbook systems. All localities responded to the survey. For the 1967-68 school year, nine school systems reported a free textbook system for grades one through twelve and sixty-two reported a rental textbook system for grades one through twelve. Twenty-six localities advised that they operated a retail sales system in grades one through twelve. The remaining counties and cities indicated some combination system under which pupils obtain their textbooks.

Since basal textbooks are not adopted for the kindergarten, the cost of providing instructional materials for this program is not included in this report.

A Free Textbook System refers to that system or method under which State basal textbooks are provided pupils without cost or fee to the pupil.

A Rental Textbook System refers to that system or method under which State basal textbooks are furnished pupils at reduced costs.

A Retail Sales System means that system whereby textbooks are purchased by the school system and sold at a retail price not to exceed that stipulated by the State Board of Education.

It should be noted that most school systems, regardless of the method of furnishing textbooks, provide the opportunity for parents to purchase textbooks. This method, however, is not considered as a retail sales system unless it is the predominate method used.

METHODS OF PROVIDING BASAL TEXTBOOKS
1967-68

The school year 1967-68 was selected for information concerning systems or methods of providing textbooks due to the fact that this was the last full year of school operation for which information was available at the time of the survey.

FREE TEXTBOOK METHOD

There were nine counties and cities which indicated the operation of a free textbook system in grades one through twelve. Of these, five were counties and four were cities. They are as follows:

<i>Counties</i>	<i>Cities</i>
Arlington	Richmond
Greensville	Hampton
Henrico	Newport News
Loudoun	Williamsburg
York	

Other counties and cities reporting free systems for a limited number of specified grades are:

<i>Counties</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Cities</i>	<i>Grades</i>
Chesterfield	1 thru 7	Clifton Forge	1 thru 7
Fairfax	1 thru 6	Hopewell	1 thru 7
Lancaster	1 thru 7	Norfolk	1 thru 9
Northumberland	1 thru 7	Norton	1 thru 7
Shenandoah	1 thru 7	Portsmouth	1 thru 8
		Roanoke	1 thru 7
		Suffolk	1 thru 7
		Winchester	1 thru 6

RENTAL TEXTBOOK METHOD

Sixty-one counties and cities reported having a rental textbook system in grades one through twelve. Of these, 43 were counties and 18 were cities. They are as follows:

Counties

Accomack, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Campbell, Carroll, Charles City, Clarke, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Giles, Halifax, Hanover, Henry, Highland, King George, King & Queen, Lunenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent, Page, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Smyth, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Wise, Wythe.

Total Counties—43

Cities

Alexandria, Bristol, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Colonial Heights, Covington, Danville, Falls Church, Galax, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Petersburg, Radford, Staunton, Waynesboro, South Boston, Lexington.

Total Cities—18

Counties and cities reporting rental systems for a limited number of grades as specified are:

<i>Counties</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Cities</i>	<i>Grades</i>
Buchanan	1 thru 8	Clifton Forge	8 thru 12
Charlotte	1 thru 7	Fredericksburg	1 thru 7
Chesterfield	8 thru 12	Norton	8 thru 12
Craig	1 thru 7	Roanoke	8 thru 12
Fairfax	7 thru 12	Winchester	7 thru 12
Frederick	1 thru 8	Chesapeake	1 thru 7
Gloucester	1 thru 9		
Grayson	1 thru 7		
King William	1 thru 7		
Lancaster	8 thru 12		
Mathews	1 thru 7		
Mecklenburg	1 thru 4		
Northampton	1 thru 7		
Patrick	1 thru 10		
Pittsylvania	1 thru 7		
Powhatan	1 thru 7		
Washington	1 thru 7		

RETAIL SALES TEXTBOOK METHOD

Twenty-six counties and cities reported having a retail sale method of providing textbooks in grades one through twelve. They are as follows:

Counties

Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Culpeper, Cumberland, Goochland, Greene, Isle of Wight, Lee, Louisa, Madison, Middlesex, Nansemond, Nottoway, Prince George, Richmond, Scott, Surry, Sussex, Warren, Westmoreland.

Total Counties—25

Cities

Virginia Beach

Total—1

Counties and cities reporting retail sales for a limited number of grades as indicated are:

<i>Counties</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Counties</i>	<i>Grades</i>
Buchanan	9 thru 12	Mecklenburg	5 thru 12
Charlotte	8 thru 12	Northampton	8 thru 12
Craig	8 thru 12	Northumberland	8 thru 12
Dickenson	8 thru 12	Patrick	11 thru 12
Frederick	9 thru 12	Pittsylvania	8 thru 12
Gloucester	10 thru 12	Shenandoah	8 thru 12
Grayson	8 thru 12	Washington	8 thru 12
Mathews	8 thru 12		

<i>Cities</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Cities</i>	<i>Grades</i>
Fredericksburg	8 thru 12	Portsmouth	9 thru 12
Hopewell	8 thru 12	Suffolk	8 thru 12
Norfolk	10 thru 12	Chesapeake	8 thru 12

COST TO LOCALITIES AND STATE FOR 1967-68

The total local cost of furnishing textbooks irrespective of the method was \$7,894,646. This figure represents the total disbursements as reported by the localities for this year but not including costs of instructional material other than textbooks.

The State reimbursement to those localities having free or rental systems was \$284,422.

The total local and State cost was \$8,179,098.

COST OF FREE TEXTBOOK SYSTEM FOR ALL PUPILS

The cost of providing textbooks on a rental basis, without charge to the pupil, and under a retail system increased on an average of approximately ten percent per year from 1962-63 through 1967-68.

A projection of costs for a six-year period beginning with 1970-71 obviously has its limitations. The cost of publishing textbooks cannot be foreseen with accuracy. Furthermore, such factors as the life of a textbook, textbook repair, administrative costs, conversion to a free system by those localities with a retail sales system, and enrollment trends at the elementary and secondary levels, will affect the total cost.

In projecting the estimated cost of providing textbooks without charge to the pupil, it is assumed that:

1. The average increase in cost to maintain a free textbook system for all pupils may continue to rise at the rate of ten percent per year,
2. Those localities which currently have a retail sales system for any grade will bear the cost of converting which is over and beyond the cost of maintaining a free system,
3. Provision will be made for increased enrollment whereby complete sets of books will be furnished new pupils,
4. The State Board of Education's time table for adoption of basal textbooks will continue,
5. Provision of free textbooks will be limited to the State Board's basal list, and
6. Each locality will purchase its own books and the State will not maintain a central book depository.

Projections of costs of free textbooks for each year of a six-year period beginning with 1970-71 follow—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Cost</i>
1970-71	1,121,300	\$11,583,029
1971-72	1,130,800	13,061,728
1972-73	1,130,300	14,231,250
1973-74	1,127,200	15,556,750
1974-75	1,122,100	17,022,763
1975-76	1,117,000	18,603,520

Obviously projections for a given year should be reassessed in light of experience and data more current at a particular time.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Assembly in 1966 and again in 1968 appropriated funds to assist localities in establishing and maintaining free or rental textbook systems.

Such funds were provided for one year of each biennium and amount to two dollars per pupil.

The textbook is an essential tool in the educational process and it is of paramount importance that each pupil is able to obtain his basal textbooks at the beginning of each school year. It is obvious that children who are not able to do so are at a decided disadvantage.

It is believed a system whereby all children are furnished their basal textbooks at the opening of school would constitute a highly significant step in further strengthening the quality of the educational process and would also contribute to a reduction in the dropout rate.

It is recommended that the General Assembly establish at the earliest feasible date a Statewide system of free basal textbooks and stipulate the basis of financial support for this system. Until such time as a Statewide free textbook system is inaugurated, it is recommended that localities having free and rental systems be aided in an amount as proposed by the State Board of Education in its budget requests.

