



# Draper Notes

May 30, 2015

## **DeSoto Students Deserve Updated Textbooks**

As the 2014.2015 school year comes to a conclusion, it is unbelievable to discover that many of our elementary students have not been issued textbooks correlated to the new Florida Standards for this current school year. Consider the following:

- No core math program aligned to the Florida Standards was ever purchased for all elementary students for the 2014.2015 school year.
- There are no core intervention, English Language Learner, or enrichment resources for elementary students.
- The elementary teachers were provided with supplemental materials and online resources, but these are not enough. These supplemental materials are intended for use only as supplements to the core textbook.
- Elementary teachers and administrators have continually reported a shortage of reading and math materials correlated to the new Florida Standards throughout the year to the superintendent (Gary), assistant superintendent (Britton), and curriculum director (Turnipseed), but these materials were never ordered.
- Students have shared core area textbooks in elementary grades throughout 2014.2015. This left many students without a textbook while instruction was taking place in the classroom.

Our students and teachers deserve better than this. Students are assessed on their performance on formative tests, summative tests, and state tests, and teachers are evaluated on the students' performance on these state tests and some district adopted computer tests. The superintendent and school board have a responsibility to provide textbooks that are correlated to the Florida Standards upon which these high stakes tests are based. The same funds that purchase new

administrative furniture, redecorate reception areas, purchase new vehicles for personal use could have been used to purchase textbooks.

It is time to get the district priorities in order with action rather than just talk. Every student deserves a textbook and corresponding supplemental, intervention, enrichment materials, and a core curriculum written to the current standards upon which they are assessed. Anything less is simply not acceptable.

### **Florida Statutory References**

#### 1006.28 (1)

The district school board has the constitutional duty and responsibility to select and provide adequate instructional materials for all students in accordance with the requirements of this part. The term "adequate instructional materials" means a sufficient number of student or site licenses or sets of materials that are 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 that serve as the basis for instruction for each student in the core subject areas of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature.

#### 1006.283 (4)

The district school superintendent shall annually certify to the department that all instructional materials for core courses used by the district are aligned with all applicable state standards and have been reviewed, selected, and adopted by the district school board in accordance with the school board hearing and public meeting requirements of this section.

#### 1002.20

(a) *Core courses.*--Each public school student is entitled to sufficient instructional materials in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature, in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1003.02(1)(d) and 1006.40(2).

1003.02

(d) *Courses of study and instructional materials.--*

1. Provide adequate instructional materials for all students as follows and in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1006, in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature, except for instruction for which the school advisory council approves the use of a program that does not include a textbook as a major tool of instruction.