



SPLC
Southern Poverty
Law Center

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April 19, 2022

Via eMail

Florida Department of Education
Attn.: Public Records
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1544
Tallahassee, FL 32399
PRR@fldoe.org.
850-245-9759

Re: Public Records Request

To Whom it May Concern:

This is a Public Records Act request, made pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Article 1, Section 24, of the Florida Constitution, for copies of public records¹ reflecting the information described in Section B below.

A. Separate Requests Requiring Separate Responses

Please treat each of the numbered paragraphs in Section B as a separate request under the Public Records Act and respond to each separately as to (1) the existence of such documents; (2) whether you intend to make such documents available; (3) if you claim any exemption or privilege with respect to such documents, the documents as to which the privilege or exemption applies; and (4) when documents are produced or made available, the paragraph to which such documents are intended to respond. This procedure is intended to obviate the waste of sending separate requests as to each of these categories of documents. Unless I hear promptly from you to the contrary, I will assume this will not be necessary.

B. Records Requests

In accordance with section 119.07(1)(c) of the Public Records Act, please determine if you or anyone else in your agency has custody of the following records:

¹ For purposes of this request, "records" means information of any kind, including writings, memoranda, emails, text messages, letters, notes, minutes of meetings, documents, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, electronic and magnetic recordings of meetings, records of telephone conversations, including cell phone records, and any other compilation of data from which information can be obtained.

1. All records relating to the reasons for rejecting or approving each of the 132 textbooks referenced in the Department's April 15, 2022 press release² and also listed on its website.³
2. All records defining or explaining the term "special topics" as that phrase is used in the press release and linked list of approved and rejected textbooks.
3. All records containing guidelines, rubrics, or other scoring documents used by reviewers preparing the list of approved and rejected textbooks.
4. All records showing the identities and qualifications of those reviewers.
5. All records regarding the drafting of the April 15, 2022 press release.
6. All records of communications to or from Commissioner Corcoran or any member of the Board of Education regarding curricular material approval or rejection from January 1, 2022 through the present.
7. All records of communications to or from Commissioner Corcoran or any member of the Board of Education including the acronym "SEL"⁴ or the words "social," "socio-emotional," or "emotional" within five words of the word "learning" from January 1, 2022 through the present.
8. All records of communications to or from the publisher or author of any rejected textbook and any employee of the Department from January 1 through the present.

C. Exemptions

In accordance with Florida Statute Section 119.07(1)(e), if you claim that any record is exempt from public disclosure, please state in writing both the statutory citation to any exemption which you claim is applicable and the specific reasons for your conclusion that the requested record is exempt. If you redact any portion of the records, please state in writing both the statutory citation to any exemption you believe is applicable and the specific reasons for a conclusion that the portion of the record is exempt, and produce the remainder of the record, in accordance with Florida Statute Section 119.07(1)(d)-(e).

Please produce these records in a rolling fashion as they are located. If the documents are available electronically, I request that they be produced in electronic format via email to sam.boyd@splcenter.org or, if that is not possible, on a CD or USB flash drive, to reduce costs.

I ask that you waive the costs associated with this request, including any fees for locating and copying records. Release of this information is a matter of public interest, as it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of a public entity, and I do not seek disclosure of this information for my own commercial interest. If you are unable to waive costs, I ask that you please provide an estimate of total costs if they are likely to exceed \$200 prior to filling my request.

Please contact me with any questions related to this request. Thank you.

² <https://www.fldoe.org/newsroom/latest-news/florida-rejects-publishers-attempts-to-indoctrinate-students.shtml>

³ <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5574/urlt/2122MathAdoptedMaterials.pdf>

⁴ Please search with spaces around this acronym to avoid capturing words in which this three-letter string occurs.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sam Boyd

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