



Board Action Required

No Action Required

February 22, 2011

1st-5th Grade Spelling Adoption

Beginning November 2010, an elementary committee was formed and began the textbook adoption process. It split into three subcommittees to specifically look at each subject area: Language Arts, Spelling, and Handwriting. The Spelling Adoption Committee was comprised of classroom teachers, dyslexia specialists, an RtI specialist, and literacy coaches. The Spelling Adoption Committee met in December and again in early January. A comparison of which spelling TEKS were addressed in *Words Their Way*, our current spelling system, and the new adoption materials from Zaner-Bloser was made. A Thinking Map was created for evaluating the positive and negative characteristics of the new spelling adoption. Then, in early January, textbook committee members had the opportunity to view presentations from the publishers and ask any questions that had arisen.

Elementary Committees:

- Three committees (Language Arts, Spelling, and Handwriting) consisting of about 22 teachers were split into the three subcommittees with a campus administrator serving as a facilitator for each
- Spelling Adoption members compared spelling TEKS addressed by the current system and the Zaner-Bloser Spelling Connections adoption candidate. (December)
- Teachers continued reviewing and teaching with this option (Dec.-Feb.)
- Committee members brought back feedback from their campus along with the completed rubrics used to evaluate the various textbook adoptions.
- Thinking Map of the pros and cons of the new spelling adoption was created by the committee members.
- January 31st the entire committee convened and, after final review, reached consensus for the 1-5 textbook selection.

This memo serves as a recommendation from the Elementary Spelling Textbook Adoption Committee to order **Spelling Connections, a Zaner-Bloser publication**, as our new elementary spelling textbook adoption to be used in support of our current spelling system, *Words Their Way*.

Furthermore, we recommend adopting all titles.

Submitted by

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on behalf of the Spelling committee, facilitator: Dana McMillin