

Dear Commissioner Williams:

The abrupt censorship of the CSCOPE Curriculum has resulted in River Road ISD no longer having access to curriculum that supports the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. It is impossible for River Road ISD to create K-12 core curriculum documents in 2.5 months. Textbooks that are approved by the state are required to meet only 50% of the state standards; therefore, relying on these resources will not prepare students for the high standards assessed with STAAR and EOCs. Instructional Materials Allotment created much needed flexibility in obtaining instructional resources to support the TEKS; however, CSCOPE districts, such as River Road ISD, selected resources that were aligned with CSCOPE.

River Road ISD is a property poor school district, with one of the lowest target revenues in the state. Although the district has passed a TRE, our resources are extremely limited. CSCOPE offered a quality curriculum for \$20,000 per year. Replacing this curriculum will far exceed the funds I have available.

A suggestion was made by Senator Patrick that larger schools would be willing to share their curriculum with CSCOPE schools. That option has tremendous implications:

- 1.) Open access to another district's network – curriculum is on-line
- 2.) Lack of resources aligned to the district's curriculum
- 3.) Lack of training for teachers to effectively utilize the new curriculum
- 4.) Cost
- 5.) Ability to localize 'their' curriculum based on "my" student needs and local resources

The following quote was used in Senator Patrick's press release:

"We accept the concerns expressed by the leadership of the state regarding segments of the lessons that were perceived as contradictory to the values of our great state. We will therefore eliminate the model lessons offered as examples of what was interpreted as the intent of the standards and focus on moving forward in a positive manner." Mary Ann Whiteker, Superintendent, River Road ISD

The remark was meant to be interpreted as eliminating the questionable lessons, allowing districts to continue using the curriculum following SBOE review. In no way was that to be taken as accepting the censorship of curriculum that was not only addressing the state standards, but resulting in student success on state assessments. Over 870 school districts have now been ordered to "make bricks without straw!"

We are in dire need of assistance to accomplish this daunting task. Districts must have time to adjust to your decision to censor the use of all lessons from CSCOPE.