

# Livonia Public Schools Academic Services Department

## Lindsay Rousseau

**DATE:** May 25, 2023

**TO:** Kristen Quesada, Churchill High School  
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School  
Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School

**FROM:** Lindsay Rousseau, 7-12 ELA & Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Textbook Recommendation for the High School Law and Justice Course

This memo recommends the adoption of *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law (Tenth Edition)* digital and physical textbook for the high school Law and Justice course . The details below provide more information about the adoption process and information to support the recommendation.

### **Committee Members**

Churchill: John Filiatraut  
Franklin: Paul Newitt  
Stevenson: Amanda Feheley

### **Recommended Materials for Adoption**

*Street Law: A Course in Practical Law, Tenth Edition, 2021* from McGraw-Hill Publishing.

Cost proposal is attached.

### **Summary of Course(s)**

The Law and Justice course is open to any high school student in grades 11-12.

### **Overview**

The current textbook used in the Law and Justice course is *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law*, Copyright 1999. Because of the nature of the Law and Justice course, it is imperative that updated materials be used, as laws and case studies are being updated constantly and at all levels of government.

### **Evaluation Process**

Finding a new textbook for the Law and Justice course proved to be a challenge because most textbooks available for purchase are written for the college level, not the high school level. The course is currently using a 24-year old version of the *Street Law* text, so the committee was excited to hear that there was an updated version of this text available for use in high schools. From all publishers that have been vetted and sell materials to high schools, McGraw-Hill was the only company marketing a Law and Justice text to high schools. Because this is the text that the committee is used to using, they were happy to review and pilot the updated version of *Street Law*. The committee created their shared vision for the course, examined the textbook and online platform, completed a rubric for the text and online platform, checked the text for standard alignment, and had their students evaluate the text and online platform.

### **Shared Vision**

In LPS, we have a vision for the Law and Justice course where students will understand the origins and basics of the legal system in the US and in Michigan, Constitutional Law, the court system, and the application and consequences of the law in everyday life. Students will evaluate, in depth, topics and situations, formulate persuasive arguments, and present verbally and in writing.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

We evaluated the textbooks using a rubric with the following criteria:

- Alignment to the C3 Framework, Inquiry Arc, and the Michigan Social Studies standards
- Balance of skill development, conceptual understanding, and applicable tasks
- Reflect the needs and diversity of LPS students
- Offer reteaching and extensions opportunities
- Discourse, engagement, critical thinking
- Assessment (formative and summative)
- Digital platform

### **Textbooks Considered**

*Street Law: A Course in Practical Law, 10th Edition (2021)* from McGraw-Hill Publishing

### **Independent Evaluation**

The committee of high school Law and Justice teachers began with a search for textbooks appropriate for a high school-level course. This proved to be quite challenging, as none of the publishers that we use for textbook purchases had a text available for a high school law course; everything they had available was written for college/university use. McGraw-Hill was the only exception to this, as they had just published a new edition of their *Street Law* text in 2021. The committee agreed that they were fine with looking at just the one text, since that's all that was available and because they have been using an older version of this text for the better part of 25 years. The committee looked at the teacher materials, student textbook, and both the teacher and student options on the digital platform, and the committee agreed that the materials available will work great with LPS students and offer updated laws and case studies that are relevant to our world today.

### **Evaluation Rubric Outcome**

The results of the rubric that was created by the committee, prior to piloting, showed *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law, 10th edition* does an exemplary job of aligning the text/skills with the standards, connecting ideas and concepts to one another, providing resources that reflect the needs and diversity of LPS students, providing lessons that promote classroom discourse and entry points for all students, providing resources that promote student inquiry, reflection, critical thinking, problem solving, and sense-making, and providing teachers with opportunities to adapt instructional activities to meet student needs.

### **Student Response**

Student response to the text and the digital platform was positive. Students commented that they liked how organized the text and digital platform were, the ease with which information could be located, the updated, relevant information/case studies given throughout the text, and the digital platform tools for resources and assessment preparation.

**Professional Development Needs**

Psychology teachers will have access to PD for platform navigation and resources offered by McGraw-Hill Publishing via live webinars and a PD video library.

For additional information on the adoption recommendation, contact Lindsay Rousseau at x42594.

CC

Theresa O'Brien

Kevin Etue

HS Social Studies Department Chairs