



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

TITLE: History/Social Science Textbook Adoption Update

NUMBER: MEM-3268

ISSUER: Ronni Ephraim, Chief Instructional Officer, Elementary
Robert Collins, Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary

DATE: September 13, 2006

ROUTING
Local District
Superintendents
AI
DSS
Principals

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Memorandum is to update all schools on the status of technology-related purchasing options offered by publishers as part of their History/Social Science textbook packages.

BACKGROUND: The textbook evaluation committees that reviewed and recommended History/Social Science textbooks for implementation in the 2006-07 school year focused only on the textbooks submitted for adoption.

INFORMATION: Secondary Schools (Grades 6-12)

On July 12, 2006, the California Department of Education issued a letter reminding publishers of the policies and procedures governing gratis items. Both the *Education Code* and *California Code of Regulations* state that gratis items are limited to instructional materials only, **not** equipment such as DVD players, televisions, LCD projectors, laptop computers, scanners, and the like. Offers of equipment could be considered a violation of *Education Code* §60071 that prohibits publishers from offering or giving any valuable thing or inducement to directly or indirectly influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional material.

It has come to our attention that some publishers may have promised and/or shipped gratis technology equipment to some secondary schools. General Counsel has reviewed the situation and has concluded the following:

"Although inducement is not proven, it could easily be inferred. Therefore, the prudent course of action would be to return any LCD projectors or laptops received under these offers, and require the publishers to provide the alternate workbooks in their place. This would be the safest course of action to avoid potential future civil and criminal liability against any District employee."

Schools in receipt of gratis technology equipment should not distribute it. The District will work with publishing companies to reach resolve on promised and/or shipped gratis equipment. Further information will follow.

ASSISTANCE: For assistance or further information, please contact Herm Clay Director, History Branch, at (213) 241-4216, Marlene Felix, Director, Elementary History/Social Science and Science, at (213) 241-6444, or Esther Sinofsky, Director, Instructional Media Services, at (213) 207-2271.