



FROM IMCAT

IMpulse

THE PULSE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS IN TEXAS • 2Q 2015

Join IMCAT at its Annual Summer Institute

Summertime and the livin' is easy...if you're not a Texas instructional materials professional.

Summertime can be a challenge if you're involved in instructional materials in Texas schools, but IMCAT can make the livin' easier with its annual Summer Institute.

Summer Institute's curriculum – **Instructional Materials 101** – features all the information you need to get ready for your school year. It's great for instructional materials professionals who are new to the process or for veterans who want a summer refresher.

The Summer Institute is offered at ten different locations on different dates so you'll be able to pick the date and location that fits best with your summer schedule.

The cost is only \$65 for IMCAT members (those who attended the 2014 Annual Conference or who have paid their membership dues since). Registration includes morning refreshments, lunch and materials.

The fee for nonmembers is \$95 and includes morning refreshments, lunch, materials and a 2015 IMCAT membership.

Representatives of commercial enterprises may attend at the rate of \$225.

All classes are from 8:30 am–2 pm. To register, visit www.imcat.org. See below for the 2015 schedule. Registrants may attend one session at any site; region listings are for suggestion only.

Regions 1, 2, & 3 » July 22

Abel Villarreal/Betty Adamson
2909 Miori Lane
Victoria, TX 77901
361-788-9203

CONTINUED PAGE 8 ► SUMMER INSTITUTE

IMCAT Supported Bill on its Way to Senate

House Bill 1474, the “front-loading” measure that IMCAT pushed for, has passed the Texas House and is on its way to the Senate.

Instead of piecing out a school's Instructional Materials Allotment over two years of the biennium, the bill, authored by Rep. Gary VanDeaver, would give schools access to all their IMA in the first year of the biennium.

That's important in biennia like this one, when the huge Proclamation 2015 is almost assured to soak up much of the two-year distribution in the first year.

CONTINUED PAGE 10 ► HB1474

Funding Options Remain Limited Until Budget Passed

It happens every two years, and it's rarely gentle.

The State Legislature convenes in Austin. The only thing it has to get done is pass a budget for the two-year period (“biennium”) that begins on September 1.

Sometimes they're finished within the 140 days that the state constitution gives them for their Regular Session. Sometimes they're not, and they have to return for a special session. Or two.

Until lawmakers pass that budget, Texas educators don't know how much money they'll be getting for instructional materials.

CONTINUED PAGE 5 ► APPROPRIATION BILL

Letter from IMCAT President Kellie Skarda

Wow, it seems like this school year just started and it's already winding down. Most school districts are into their final six-weeks grading period, and students are patiently waiting for the final bell to ring.

So what does that mean for us as Instructional Materials Coordinators? The start of another busy summer and anxiously waiting for the Texas Legislature to pass the budget so we know how much funding we will receive.

EMAT opened up April 22. However, you should all be aware that the new funds will not be allocated to districts until the Legislature passes the budget. Districts will be able to spend any carryover balances, but until new funds have been allocated, we must all wait to place our orders for new materials.

How much and what percentage we will receive will be determined by the Legislature. HB 1474 is a bill that would place all of our funds in the first year of the biennium. If you would like to hear more on what is going on at the Capitol, check out IMCAT's website, Facebook page or Twitter feed (@imcatnews) for the latest updates.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of your IMCAT Board Members. We are here to assist.



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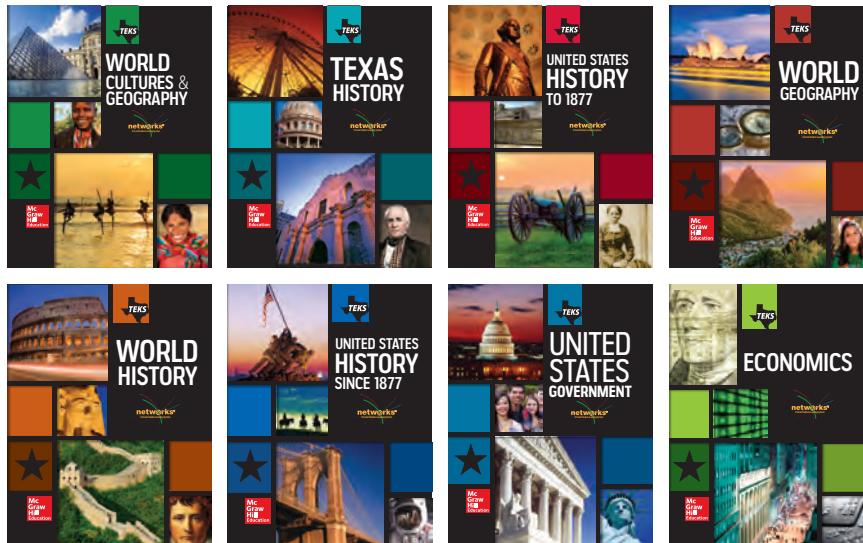
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That can prove confusing, especially to educators who are new to the process. Instructional materials are supposed to be ordered and begin arriving for the new school year during the summer.

In March, Instructional Materials and Educational Technology Division of T.E.A. described the options available to schools until the appropriation bill is passed and signed. A description is available at:

http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Instructional_Materials_Ordering_for_the_2015%E2%88%922016_School_Year/

Until the Legislature gives T.E.A. the amounts that will be available as of Sept. 1, instructional materials coordinators can place orders in EMAT, the state's online ordering system, but they can only use:

- funds left unspent from previous Instructional Materials Allotments, or
- local funds that may be reimbursed after Sept. 1 through the disbursement process in EMAT. T.E.A. cautions, though, that a school district or open enrollment charter school can only be reimbursed up

to the maximum in the IMA that becomes available Sept. 1. After a school district hits that mark, its local funds won't be reimbursed.

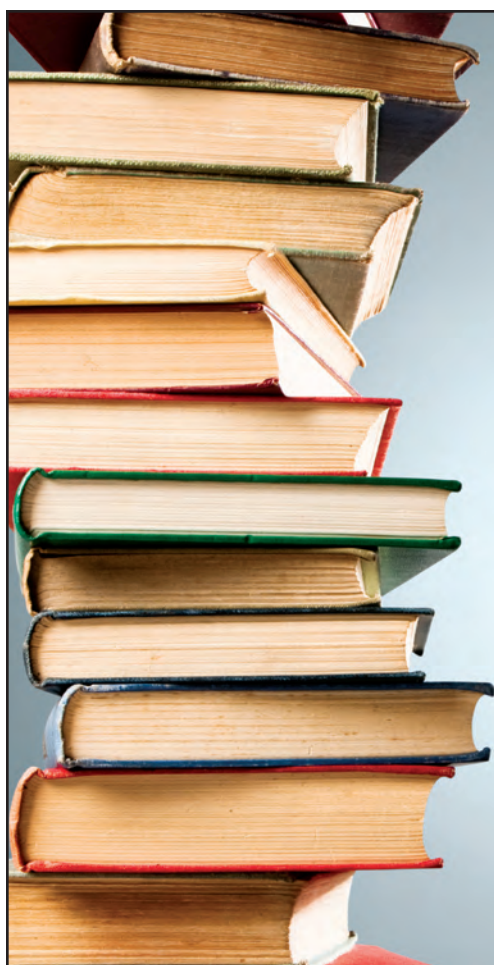
Assuming the budget gets passed in the summer, educators can begin ordering instructional materials, particularly the voluminous Social Studies materials included in Proclamation 2015. They can "spend" up to 80 percent of the IMA that will arrive after Sept. 1, as long as publishers agree to defer collection of the payment after the new fiscal year begins.

Most publishers have agreed to the deferred payment. There are, at presstime, two exceptions: AQR Press and Discovery. A list of publishers that have confirmed their willingness to delay payment appears on the IMCAT website, www.imcat.org.

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Textbook Operations Bldg. 2
228 McCarty
Houston, TX 77029
281-634-2946

Region 6 » June 23

Rosa Ojeda/Nicole Joslin/
Kellie Skarda
Waller ISD Technology Bldg.
1914 Key St.
Waller, TX 77484
936-931-0318 ext. 1206

Regions 7 & 8 » June 11

Tony Black/Donna McGuire
Pine Tree Junior High
2100 NW Loop 281
Longview, TX 75604
903-839-5500 ext. 6167

Regions 9, 14 & 15 » June 16

Kim Slough/Lorrie Payne
Crockett Room, Abilene ISD
Admin Building
241 Pine Street
Abilene, TX 79601
325-677-1444 ext. 2854

Regions 10 & 11 » June 15

Nick Gleicher/Cherie Crews/
Kathryn Rey
Irving ISD Learning Resource
Center - Ratteree
2121 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Irving, TX 75060
972-600-4833

Regions 12 & 13 » July 7

Greg Wright
Leander ISD Support Services
Building, Conference Room 206
1900 Cougar Country Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512-570-0625

Regions 16 & 17 » June 16

Doricell Davis
Dimmitt High School
1405 Western Circle Dr.
Dimmitt, TX 79027
806-647-3101

Regions 18 & 19 » June 18

Kim O'Connor
Midland ISD Central Office
615 W. Missouri
Midland, TX 79701
432-240-1920

Region 20 » June 17

Sonia Blanco/KK Korelich
East Central ISD Ed. Hall
7395 FM 1628
San Antonio, TX 78263
210-649-4219

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Links are available at **www.imcat.org**.



The Instructional Materials Coordinators'
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“HB1474 will give school districts and open enrollment charter schools more flexibility and allow them to plan better for the instructional needs of their students,” said IMCAT President Kellie Skarda of Goose Creek CISD. “We want to thank Rep. VanDeaver for all his efforts on behalf of this landmark legislation.”

HB1474 passed the House on May 5. With less than a month to get through the Senate to the governor’s desk, HB1474 faces a long slog to becoming reality.

The provisions of HB1474 have been incorporated into another bill that seems to have the blessing of House leadership, HB2811 by Rep. Ken King.

That bill also requires the State Board of Education to reduce the number of TEKS specified in the foundation curriculum and to limit the projected cost of its proclamations to 75 percent of the amount that will be available to the Instructional Materials Fund in the biennium.

Ann McGuffey Honored with P.D. Thomas Award



Longtime coordinator Ann McGuffey was recognized with the P.D. Thomas Award at I.M. Texas 2014 in Fort Worth this past December.

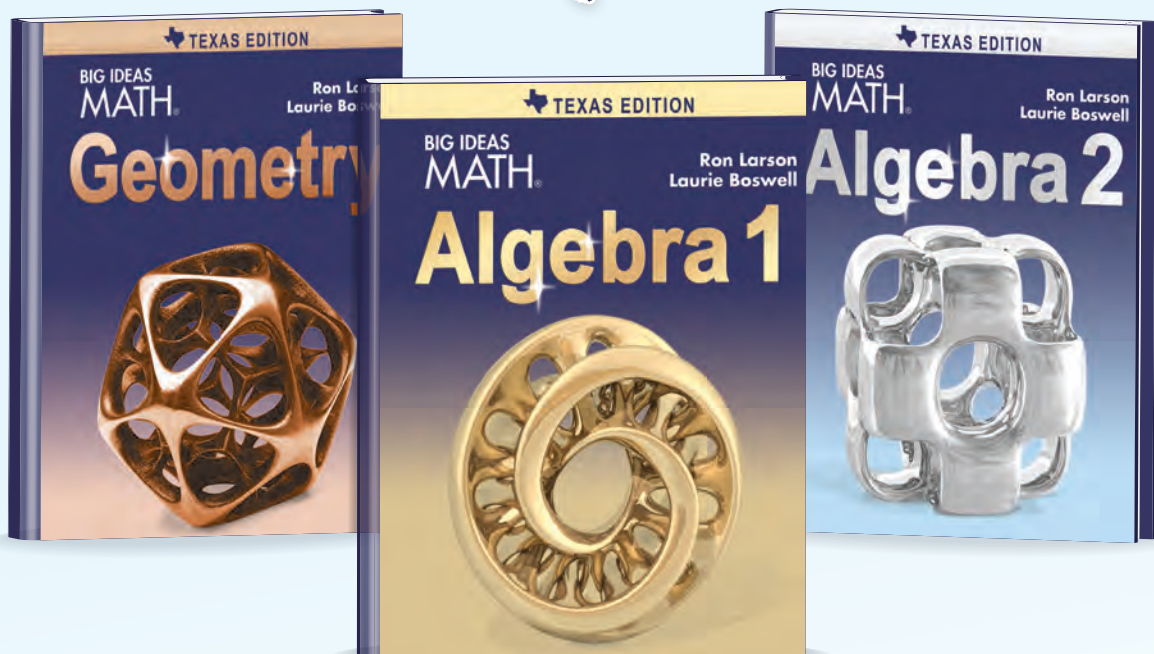
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