



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 29, 2011

Contact: Mark McDonald  
800-569-1503

*Texas Curriculum Praises Legislators for Funding Critical Classroom Materials  
New Instructional Materials Essential for New High-Stakes Standardized Tests*

Austin, Texas – Mark McDonald, executive director of Texas Curriculum, today praised Texas legislators for funding critically important instructional materials in the 2012-13 state budget during these tight fiscal times.

“We applaud the Legislature for working so hard throughout this budget crisis, and standing up for Texas schoolchildren by funding classroom basics, which will be delivered straight to Texas classrooms. The updated instructional materials were developed to align to a stronger curriculum required by the state’s new higher standards and new end-of-course exams that the Legislature, educators and parents all wanted,” said McDonald.

Lawmakers budgeted \$300 million for the new digital and print instructional materials that will replace supplies that are 8-18 years old, in the subjects of English Language Arts, including handwriting and spelling, and English as a Second Language. Additional budget bills allocated funds for newly aligned Pre-K, continuing contracts for new students entering Texas schools and all-digital Supplemental Science material.

The new English and Language Arts instructional materials contain the building blocks for effective college and career readiness and are based on new education standards to help students learn essentials such as grammar, punctuation, spelling, and the more heavily emphasized composition skills. Updated PreK materials are based on comprehensive, research-based guidelines that emphasize much higher expectations in early reading and math skills. Stronger ESL materials are built around new proficiency standards and are designed to improve English comprehension of students with limited English proficiency.

“In any crisis it takes courage to stand up for what is right, and on behalf of Texas schoolchildren everywhere, I applaud the Legislature for not forgetting our most precious resource. There is widespread recognition that to strengthen our state we must invest in our children’s education in order to have an educated and skilled workforce. Senator Shapiro and other legislative education leaders never forgot that,” said McDonald.