

CHAPTER 98

AN ACT concerning the sharing of textbooks between school districts and supplementing chapter 34 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:34-3 Statewide textbook bank, creation; database.

1. a. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the Department of Education shall coordinate the sharing of textbooks among school districts by creating a Statewide textbook bank. The Department of Education shall create and maintain a database of all textbooks that will be discarded by each school district. The textbook bank database shall be made available on the Department of Education's website and a list of all available textbooks shall be sent to each school district periodically.

b. Each school district shall notify the Department of Education of any textbooks the district intends to discard. The Department of Education shall within 14 days of receiving notification from the school district of the intent to dispose of the textbooks, list the textbooks in the textbook bank database. School districts shall retain the textbooks to be discarded for a period of 120 days after the district has notified the Department of Education.

c. Districts acquiring textbooks using the textbook bank database are responsible for all costs associated with receiving them from the donating district.

d. The department shall make the textbook bank database available for use by nonpublic schools.

C.18A:34-4 Guidelines on useful life of certain textbooks.

2. a. The Department of Education shall develop and disseminate to school districts, guidelines on the useful life of textbooks in the core curriculum content standards subject areas. Textbooks exceeding the useful life guidelines established by the department shall be exempt from the provisions of section 1 of this act.

b. The provisions of section 1 of this act shall not apply to textbooks that are worn out or useless due to damage or mutilation.

3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment, but the Commissioner of Education may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act.

Approved November 13, 2002.