THE PROBLEM

1. Determine the methods for textbook adoption at the state level.
   - What stakeholder groups exert the most influence on the process?

2. What, if any, process modifications could make the current textbook adoption process more effective?
OBJECTIVES

- Identify the methods of textbook adoption:
  - Identify stakeholders
  - Identify stakeholder responsibilities

- Determine opportunities for greater efficiency

- Determine the levels of accountability

Background

- Guest Speakers
- Interviews
  - NV Department of Education
  - Legislature (Assembly's Education Committee)
  - State Board of Education members
- State Board of Education public meetings
- Literature Review
  - LCB audit
  - Journal articles
  - Internet research (adoption process comparisons across states)
ALTERNATIVE POLICIES

- Leaving the process as-is

- Developing a stronger administration within the Department of Education, which would be responsible for approving and adopting textbooks

- Centralizing the process at the District level

ALTERNATIVE POLICIES: LEAVING THE PROCESS STATUS-QUO

- Pros:
  - Current process functions
  - Meets objectives

- Cons:
  - Low level of accountability
  - Highly bureaucratic
POLICY RECOMMENDATION

- Enable individual school districts to approve and adopt textbooks
  - Eliminates a lot of formal procedure that is unnecessary (e.g., State Board approval)
  - Expedites the process, allowing newer textbooks to enter classrooms faster
  - Allows school districts to operate on its own schedule

- Requirements for implementation:
  - Change in NRS code
  - Removal of State Board approval requirement
  - Specify District procedure for approval

CURRENT ADOPTION PROCESS

School District recognizes need for a textbook adoption

School District assembles textbook adoption committee

Adoption committee meets and makes final recommendations

Administrators prep agenda item for State Board of Education

School District makes the NV Dept. of Education aware of the adopted textbook

School District admin ensure standards are met and make formal recommendation

State Board of Education approves textbook

Textbook is added to the list of adopted textbooks for the state of Nevada

The textbook is now available for purchase by Nevada school districts
CURRENT ADOPTION PROCESS

School District recognizes need for a textbook adoption → School District assembles textbook adoption committee → Adoption committee meets and makes final recommendations

Administrators prep agenda item for State Board of Education → School District submits the textbook recommendation to NV Dept. of Education → School District admin ensure standards are met and make formal recommendation

State Board of Education approves textbook → Textbook is added to the list of adopted textbooks for the state of Nevada → The textbook is now available for purchase by Nevada school districts

INFLUENCES

Nevada State Legislature Council to Establish Academic Standards  
Nevada's Textbook Adoption Process  
NV Department of Education  
State Board of Education
EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Accountability
  - During the course of research, disconnects were observed as to who was ultimately responsible for ensuring the adopted textbooks met standards

- Efficiency
  - A more efficient process could reduce administrative commitment, increase confidence in the process and encourage more public participation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

- Disconnect between adoption process stakeholder groups (administration, state board and legislators)

- Each group (state level) pointed to another group when asked who is responsible

- The current process is a result of incremental changes, which shifted authority and responsibilities
ALTERNATIVE POLICIES: LARGER, STRONGER STATE ADMINISTRATION

- Pros:
  - More efficient process
  - Better record keeping methods
  - Increased public access and information

- Cons:
  - Budget constraints
  - Disorganized process
  - Increased, unnecessary paperwork
  - Increased bureaucratic methods

ALTERNATIVE POLICIES: CENTRALIZING THE PROCESS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

- Pros:
  - School district autonomy
  - More efficient process
  - Eliminates the approval process from the State Board of Education
  - More accountable process

- Cons:
  - Lack of centralized state control
  - Could become burdensome for smaller school districts who currently rely on larger districts to do the bulk of the adoption work
PROPOSED ADOPTION PROCESS

School District recognizes need for a textbook adoption

School District assembles textbook adoption committee

Adoption committee meets and makes final recommendations

Administrators prep agenda item for State Board of Education

School District makes the NV Dept. of Education aware of the adopted textbook

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