

## **State Textbook Management System Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the purpose of the state textbook management system?**

The purpose of the system is to enable schools, districts, and the State Department of Education (Department) to verify that every student has a textbook.

### **2. Will schools still need to keep a system in place to check out books to individual students?**

The Destiny Textbook Manager will replace all currently used manual or automated textbook tracking systems.

### **3. What are the capabilities of the new system?**

- Up to the minute, accurate information about the quantity and location of all your textbooks, available 24/7, from any location.
- Complete textbook management system: Distribution, Cataloging, Searching, Reporting, Transfers, and Inventory... all within a flexible, intuitive system.
- Destiny links to your Student Information System, (student & faculty patron data and class schedules), and tracks textbooks assigned to each class and patron; you will be able to see in an instant that each student has the textbooks they need to be successful, and any students or classes with a textbook shortage.
- You will be able to quickly find excess textbooks throughout your district, and easily transfer books among your schools.
- Destiny also tracks the condition of your textbooks, helping you to better forecast your future requirements.
- Destiny has an intuitive interface that makes it easy to learn and manage.
- Destiny is flexible; you will not need to change your textbook distribution methods. You may distribute textbooks en mass, by department, or by individual classroom and teacher... Textbooks may be assigned to a student, teacher, or a location.
- Destiny streamlines your inventory process, utilizing handheld and/or wireless barcode scanners.
- Destiny's reporting capabilities are robust and intuitive.
- Manage collection of overdue textbooks, including sending notices to teachers, students and their parents via hard copy or email. Manage assessments and collection of fines if you so choose.
- Destiny is Web-based, and hosted by the State Office, so no dedicated computers or software will be required by the Districts, all you'll need will be a computer with access to the web, and your login information.
- Bar-code Scanners will be provided to each school for distribution and inventory, and sufficient bar-code labels will be provided for each State-owned textbook currently in the 2006-07 state inventory.

**4. Besides personnel to bar code, will districts be responsible for purchasing scanners, bar codes, etc.?**

The Department will provide one scanner per school and sufficient bar codes to bar code the current state inventory in schools. Districts will be responsible for additional bar codes after implementation to bar code newly adopted materials and additional scanners if needed in schools or the district office.

**5. What equipment will be needed at each school to operate the Destiny system? Will the Department provide this equipment to each school?**

Schools will need a PC with an Internet connection. PC's and Internet connectivity are district responsibilities.

**6. Is implementation of the Destiny Textbook Manager by districts mandated by the state?**

In August 2004, the state of California agreed to settle Williams v. California, a landmark civil rights case brought by Eliezer Williams, which challenged the state to ensure quality learning conditions for millions of low-income students of color. It creates new standards for measuring whether schools have the basic conditions students need to learn such as textbooks.

Currently the Department and most SC school districts have no way to verify that every student has a textbook. The textbook management system after fully implemented in a district will enable any user to instantly determine this important information.

Is implementation a mandate? No, but there are no legitimate reasons why a district would not want to implement it considering the equal educational opportunity implications that the Williams v. California settlement has for SC.

**7. Is funding provided for implementation of the Destiny Textbook Manager by districts?**

While there is no funding attached, district implementation and maintenance costs should be minimal. Schools should see a considerable time savings using the textbook manager compared to using a manual system to track textbooks.