

Investigation moving forward over Special Deals Given by Publishers to Some Districts

Small School District Council Consortium asks for Reimbursements or Credits if found!

"If it is found that some districts received favorable pricing - The Small School District Council Consortium requests retroactive reimbursement or credits, and, for future purchases, equitable treatment of all districts as required by law."

Here are links to the SSDCC correspondence and the new articles covering this issue.

- SSDCC – [SSDCC statement in relation to Investigation of Instructional Materials Sales Practices .docx](#)
- SSDCC Memo - [SSDCC Requests Transparency and Reimbursement for Overcharges for Instructional Materials.docx](#))
- Clip of ABC News - [Here is the news clip than ran on Tampa ABC station Wednesday night - click on it and wait for the ad to run then the new article will start.](#)
- News Article - [News Service of Florida Article on the Textbook Investigation - Published 5-25-22 .docx](#)

BACKGROUND

For the two weeks, our office has focused on a “Whistleblower” claim that Textbook publishers are giving “Special Deals” to some districts and not others. The deals come in the form of “freebies” and lower prices. The Whistleblower allegation was sent by their attorneys in letters to the General Counsel for the Attorney General’ office, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Department of Education accompanied by invoices and purchase orders that backed up allegation. In discussion with SSDCC Leadership – a letter was sent on behalf of the SSDCC to the Governor, Attorney General, CFO Patronis, and Interim DOE Commissioner Jacob Oliva outlining concerns that if Special Deals were offered, they should have been provided to all districts. In meetings with the Governor’s Office, it is affirmed that a serious investigation is going forward and that if there is a violation of law, and I believe it is, there should be actions taken to provide credits to the districts that did not receive the cost breaks. That’s it for now! Yesterday the issue was covered in two news articles – one from the statewide new organization News Service of Florida – the other by the ABC affiliate in Tampa.