options: Mike Livshiz learned enough about brake systems through North Farmington High School's automotive program to win awards at the Vocational and Industrial Automotive Clubs of America regional competition this year.

Caree



Text trends affect classes

Other states' approved book lists define local market committee for as long as they wish. Buck, a Farmington resident, has been active for four years. He enjoys bringing his perspec-tive to the process. "I'm a business person," he said, adding that he believes businesses should support the school system with partnerships. Buck, who works for Infinite Learning in Birmingham, gives consideration to a number of fac-tors in forming his opinions, including whether graduating seniors are exposed to enough content and information to help them land a job. Committee members offer challenging questions but always

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

The relationship between cur-riculum and textbooks is an, important one to understand, according to Jerry Fouchey, director of curriculum for the Farmington Public Schools Dis-tict

Farmington Public Schools Dis-trict. In some respects toxtbooks have been nationalized, he said. The states of California and Testa have state-approved text-book list, for financial reasons. And textbook publishers have lists. Textbook publishers make everything which those two states measure. That defines a large market, the said. "If you go back 15 or 20 years for 12 choices for a taxtbook," fouchers and. "Nowdays if you got thme good choices that is the more likely occurrence because of this sort of nationalization of the curriculum, if you will. Every

text book publisher insures that their books line up with the needs of Colifornia and Texns." Booka keep getting thicker and more expensive, too, he sold. Curriculum associations like the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, The National Council of Teachers of English and the National Social Studies Council have helped to set national standards and bench-

marks, he said. "MEAP (Michigan Education "MEAP (Michigan Education Assessment Program) reflects those standards," Fouchey said. "If Michigan were to publish a textbook list, right away certain publishers would have to move out of state."

out of state." Michigan has always strongly valuad local control, yet some publishers accent to have an edge, Fouchey said. For instance when districts are looking for informa-tion about Michigan history, they often go to Michigan Hills-dale Publishing.

Benchmarks

Schools Curriculum Frameworks Committee gets together to look at benchmarks they also look at what textbooks are available. The committee has educators,

what textbooks are available. The committee has educators, administrators and parents. "We look at look at two to four textbooks." Fouchey said. "We look at how it aligns, then nego-tinte with suppliers." Textbooks are replaced every five to air years. In some "tech-no-sophisticated" courses like word processing, the material changes faster, he said. "The bond has a policy that we won't be using materials which are more than seven years old." Parents can participate in the process of curriculum review. The Curriculum Frameworks Committee has about eight meetings depends on what docu-ments are ready to consider, Fuchey said. "We look for vol-unteers."

'Good' standards drive C'ville lessons

BY JONI HUBRED STAFF WRITER jhubred@oc.homeco

JhuiredGochomecomm.net In hor three years with the dis-trict, Clarenceville Schools cur-riculum director Barb Church has only gotten one call about what was being taught in a child claseroom. And that was because the par-ent wanted to help with homework, but was having trouble with the math curricu-lum.

with homework, but was having trouble with the math curricu-lum. The twith the par-ent, showed her the some extra support, "Church some extra support," Church some extra support, "Church really wanted to help hor child." The one area parents have struggled with most in the school added, largely because there have been dramatic changes in how math is taught. The district tries to connect parents with what children are low extra with what children are how math is taught. The district tries to connect parents with what children are into a mathematica masses. The district tries to connect parents with what children are how math is taught. Data the start the school of the how math is taught. Data the school of the school of the standards measured by the how find in the school of the standards measured by the heater concers "teach to the MEAP? Church said. "The state stan for case. The approach we at those state standards and we look at thes date standards and we in color. The reason is that generally, the atte standards are sood

decide what we're going to teach." One eason is that generally. To state standards are good, writton by specialists in the field, Church said. "Dearybody agrees we want our students to be able to do those things." Teachers also look are leasons, and curriculum reviewed leasons, on a regular basis, but not always on a set schedule. Clarenceville reviewed science and social studies three years ago, then had to examine them Committee members other challenging questions but always in a constructive way, he said. The Frameworks Curriculum Review Process checklist, which committee members use to help them evaluate matterials, raises questions about how the course Please see BOOKS, A4

again the following year because the state standards changed. Whenever a major curriculum change is implemented, Church meets with teachers at the end of meets with teachers at the end un the year and evaluates whether additional "tweaking" needs to be done. It is also her responsi-bility to determine on a yearly basis which areas might need

ed. "Sometimes, they're reviewed with the curriculum," Church said. "In science, we decided not to go with one textbook, but at each grade level, we went with a variety of instructional materi-als."

variety of instructional materi-als." and the second seco

BANK ONE

bits which areas might need some work.
In spring, I think back on each curriculum area and whether anything happened during the year to prompt changes," she said. "I meet with eachers to see how everything's working." At the end of this school year, the said, they'll take a half-day to evaluate the math curriculum." In a larger district, they might have to stay on a firmer schedule, "she added.
Trethooks are also regularly reviewed. The average "wear cycle" for replacement is about every five to seven years, unless, the text is in an area of study where it quickly becomes outdat.
"Sometimes, they're reviewed."

generation of the second secon



(F)A3