



National Association of College Stores
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Course Material Adoption Information Access Policy

Background: Several states have or are considering legislation that mandates the supplying of course material adoption information to students, businesses, and the general public through dissemination on-line and in other formats. Many of these proposals may have a significant impact on the ability of college stores to serve their communities. Of particular note, Virginia and West Virginia successfully enacted laws to require public colleges and universities within the state to place course material adoption information, including ISBN information on line and in other places so students can comparison shop on-line. Other states are considering similar proposals. In contrast, Texas, New York and other states are considering legislation that would require public colleges and universities to share course material adoption information with competing course material merchants within certain time frames. Such legislative approaches present several problems:

- The legislation may be unneeded and disruptive to existing and successful open sharing arrangements with students and local competitors of course material adoption information. College stores are increasingly providing course material adoption information via on-line tools and have established effective working relationships with local competitors to provide course material adoption information in a reasonable time frame.
- The legislation may eliminate or disrupt the so-called final stage of the textbook adoption process, which ensures course materials requested by faculty are available and in a format that meets faculty and student needs —and saves students money. Forcing the release of preliminary and inaccurate information to students could lead to costly mistakes in ordering by students.
- The legislation by promoting broad access of course material lists outside of the college stores that have a demonstrated commitment to the campus community, could encourage students to turn to on-line and out-of-state textbook sellers first, hurting state revenue, colleges and universities, private businesses within the state, jobs, and citizens.

The policy position statement addresses the legislation and policy deliberations by proactively encouraging institutions of higher education and college stores to work together voluntarily to develop campus policies that address the interest in course material adoption information. The policy statement also expresses that NACS does not support legislation that unnecessarily mandates or regulates institutions of higher education and college stores supplying course material adoption information.

Policy Approved by NACS Board on June 11, 2005:

COURSE MATERIAL ADOPTION INFORMATION ACCESS POLICY

The National Association of College Stores encourages institutions of higher education, in consultation with campus and local private stores, to voluntarily develop policies that share course material adoption information with enrolled students and local private college stores committed to serving the campus community. Such policies should recognize the important role normally played by the campus store in the adoption process, as well as, the costs to the institution and campus store of developing and providing course material adoption information.

The National Association of College Stores does not support new legislation that would unnecessarily mandate and regulate how institutions of higher education and college stores supply course material adoption information.