

2005 6th Grade HEALTH Textbook Rating

Texas has approved three major publishers' 6th Grade Health books for 2005 local adoption. They rank as follows:

CLEARLY SUPERIOR

HEALTH & WELLNESS (Macmillan, 2006)

- Exemplary, directive advocacy of sexual abstinence
- Greatest reinforcement of parental values in student decision making
- Current info on pollution, free-market perspectives on conservation
- Strong self-esteem component stresses striving to succeed
- Heterosexual definitions of marriage and family
- Usually humanizes the preborn child
- Only 2 invasive student activities

FAIR

TEEN HEALTH, Course 1 (Glencoe, 2005)

- Sexual abstinence a relatively minor topic
- Some emphasis on parental values in student decision making
- Less coverage of pollution and conservation
- Weak self-esteem component stresses only security and adjustment
- Heterosexual definition of family; seldom mentions marriage
- Almost always humanizes the preborn child
- 5 invasive student activities

WORST

DECISIONS FOR HEALTH, Level Green (Holt, 2005)

- Comparatively little discussion of sexual abstinence
- Least emphasis on parental values in student decision making
- Almost nothing on pollution and conservation
- Strong self-esteem component emphasizes self-motivation
- Pro-same sex definition of family refers only to "couples" or "adults"
- Usually dehumanizes the preborn child
- Most insensitive: 21 invasive student activities

We can e-mail or snail mail full documentation for this ranking. Our seven one-page, side-by-side comparison charts briefly contrast these books' treatment of the above seven topics. Publishers tout their texts' *teaching aids*. We stress their *subject matter content*. Publishers tell you their *strengths*. We include their *weaknesses*.

This evaluation covers student texts and Teacher's Editions only. It does not assess their ancillaries, which were not part of the official submissions and which Texas never approved. Local school districts and individual teachers will have to monitor the ancillaries for age-inappropriate material and lapses in editorial judgment.

No publisher funded these reviews. We have no financial stake in any textbook company. Unlike publisher sales reps, we have no monetary interest in textbook adoption decisions. Our support comes from concerned individuals and a few small foundations, which to our knowledge have no ties to the textbook industry.