

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology  
Dr. Jennifer Bessolo, director, curriculum

Re: Advanced Placement Comparative Politics Textbook Purchase

Date: July 23, 2018

Background:

The AP Comparative Politics course is offered to seniors at both Lawrence and Free State High Schools, and the course has seen increased enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. Teachers are currently using the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the textbook, which was published in 2005 and is now out-of-print.

Teachers are challenged to teach utilizing an insufficient (in quantity) resource that is outdated and, at times, inaccurate. The Advanced Placement Course Audit has a focused list of textbooks to choose from, and this updated title is on that list.

Rationale:

After lengthy discussion, both high schools' Social Studies Department Chairs and the two AP teachers of record who have and will be teaching AP Comparative Politics for the 2018-2019 year agree that we need to upgrade the current textbook from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> (and most recent) edition. We have discussed the resource from a culturally relevant teaching lens and feel it is the best match within the required options we are provided.

An additional 30 copies of this updated text would supply both Free State and Lawrence High School with a 'mini' classroom set of 15 hardcopy texts each to provide flexible options for our teachers and students. Additionally, a 1:1 digital purchase of the textbook would be checked out to enrolled students for the next 6 years.

The approval and purchase of the above quantities of the most recent addition of the textbook, An Introduction to Comparative Politics AP Edition, will support increased enrollment, address the challenge of using outdated and inaccurate resources, and fulfill the AP Course Audit's recommendation for an AP textbook.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends Board approval of the purchase of 30 hardcopy texts and 140 one-to-one digital e-books of An Introduction to Comparative Politics, AP Edition, 8<sup>th</sup> Student Edition from National Geographic Learning/Cengage for use in both Free State and Lawrence High Schools' AP Comparative Politics course. This is to be paid from the Student Materials Revolving Fund – Teaching and Learning Instructional Social Studies budget.

Course Title: An Introduction to Comparative Politics AP Edition

Author: Kesselman  
Publish Date: January 2018  
Edition: 8<sup>th</sup>

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 30 hardcopy texts and 140 one-to-one digital e-books of Introduction to Comparative Politics, AP Edition, 8<sup>th</sup> Student Edition from National Geographic Learning/Cengage at a cost not to exceed \$17,540.00."