CASE STUDY

Destiny®
Textbook
Manager™

VISION: To reduce textbook losses, improve tracking and automate manual processes, establish accountability for all textbooks and ensure that all students within the state have the textbooks they need to succeed.

SOLUTION: Destiny Textbook Manager, the solution that provides a district-wide view of textbook inventory, was able to be implemented as a statewide solution in South Carolina’s 86 districts, allowing them to facilitate the transfer of instructional materials and lowering replacement costs. Destiny Textbook Manager makes it easy to ensure that all teachers and students throughout the state are provided with all appropriate current curriculum materials.

RESULT: Destiny Textbook Manager supports the state of South Carolina’s ability to control textbook costs and ensure that students have access to the right books at the right time. The state’s Department of Education has also been able to increase its ability to collect fines for lost and damaged textbooks and support student accountability.

Challenge
In South Carolina, all K-12 textbooks are owned by the state at an annual cost of approximately $50 million. Close to two million textbooks are in circulation at any given time throughout the state’s 1,100 schools. South Carolina conducts an annual inventory along with individual school audits to monitor textbook usage and availability. If a district or school experiences state-owned textbook losses, the state bills them accordingly. Annual losses attributed to manual processes were estimated to average between $800,000 and $1 million per year – a figure the state assumed was likely higher. The state sought to automate manual processes in an effort to reduce losses, improve accountability and “make certain that students have access to all of the textbooks that they’re supposed to have,” said Dr. Jim White, manager of the state textbook program.
Solution
“Although some schools had very good inventory systems in place, others didn’t,” said Dr. White. Several districts in South Carolina were already using Follett’s Destiny® Textbook Manager™ and seeing positive results. So the state reasoned that a centralized implementation would bring the same benefits for all districts. All districts, schools and the State Textbook Office now have access to a single statewide Destiny Textbook Manager system that is hosted at the state office, enabling centralized textbook management of all state-owned textbooks across the state – and at each district and school in the state. The state has also provided every school with barcode labels and a scanner to track state-owned books and give each textbook a unique identification number. The state office has been adding districts to the system each year since the initial implementation. Dr. White expects 100 percent involvement by June 2010.

“No textbooks are available and in the hands of each and every student.”

– Dr. Jim White, Manager, State Textbook Program

Results
Implementing the Destiny Textbook Manager system state-wide has taken the South Carolina Department of Education several steps closer to achieving its chief goal of ensuring that “textbooks are available and in the hands of each and every student.” The loss figures reported in the pre-Destiny Textbook Manager period were borne more out of guesswork than fact, Dr. White observed: “With this system, we are able to clearly identify where our losses are occurring and take action to reduce them. We are getting really good information from Destiny Textbook Manager. Our new system will help all schools and districts keep better track of materials and recover fees when they’re due.”

About Follett
Follett is the partner that over half of America’s school districts trust to help them manage everything from library resources and school assets to information for data-driven decision making. Follett helps districts of all sizes track and use information and resources more efficiently so their dollars are best leveraged to help each and every student.