

Private School Access

Question: When will TREx be made available for private schools?

Answer: As stated in the *Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Summary of HB 1, 79th Legislature, Third Called Session as Finally Passed*:

Sec.3.01.Electronic Student Records "requires the establishment of an electronic student record system approved by both the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Higher Education who may also solicit funds to maintain the system. The system must permit authorized state or district officials and representatives of higher education to transfer information to and from an educational institution in which a student is enrolled. Student transcripts, course or grade completions, assessment instrument results, personal graduation plans and other information will be available for access and retrieval. Private institutions of higher education also may participate in the system but will be required to pay for the service. The system must be implemented no later than the 2007-2008 school year."

In keeping with the HB 1 requirements*, Phase 3 of the TREx project is slated to provide TREx access to private schools based on the following criteria:

- Submission and approval of TREx request to TEA
- Submission and approval of TEASE account request to TEA
- Payment of TREx non-public campus fee
- Assignment of private school campus ID within ORG database by TEA

Phase 3 is slated to be complete by January 2008, at which time TEA will announce the procedures for submission of requests and all related fees.

*Following is the full text of HB 1, as relevant to the TREx application:

SECTION 3.01. Subchapter A, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.010. ELECTRONIC STUDENT RECORDS SYSTEM. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each school district, open-enrollment charter school, and institution of higher education shall participate in an electronic student records system that satisfies standards approved by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education.

(c) The electronic student records system must permit an authorized state or district official or an authorized representative of an institution of higher education to electronically transfer to and from an educational institution in which the student is enrolled and retrieve student transcripts, including information concerning a student's:

(1) course or grade completion;

(2) teachers of record;

(3) assessment instrument results;

(4) receipt of special education services, including placement in a special education program and the individualized education program developed; and

(5) personal graduation plan as described by Section 28.0212.

(d) The commissioner of education or the commissioner of higher education may solicit and accept grant funds to maintain the electronic student records system and to make the system available to school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and institutions of higher education.

(e) A private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, may participate in the electronic student records system under this section. If a private or independent institution of higher education elects to participate, the institution must provide the funding to participate in the system.

(f) Any person involved in the transfer and retrieval of student information under this section is subject to any state or federal law governing the release of or providing access to any confidential information to the same extent as the educational institution from which the data is collected. A person may not release or distribute the data to any other person in a form that contains confidential information.

(g) The electronic student records system shall be implemented not later than the 2007-2008 school year. This subsection expires September 1, 2008.