

The State Board of Education (SBOE) proposes new §67.43, concerning state review and approval of instructional materials. The new section would address the removal of a set of instructional materials from the lists of approved and rejected instructional materials outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC), §31.022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: TEC, Chapter 31, addresses instructional materials in public education and permits the SBOE to adopt rules for the adoption, requisition, distribution, care, use, and disposal of instructional materials. House Bill (HB) 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, significantly revised TEC, Chapter 31, including several provisions under SBOE authority. HB 1605 also added a new provision to TEC, Chapter 48, to provide additional funding to school districts and charter schools that adopt and implement SBOE-approved materials. In addition, the bill added requirements related to adoption of essential knowledge and skills in TEC, Chapter 28.

At the January-February meeting, the SBOE approved 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.21, Proclamations, Public Notice, and Requests for Instructional Materials for Review; §67.23, Requirements for Publisher Participation in Instructional Materials Review and Approval; and §67.25, Consideration and Approval of Instructional Materials by the State Board of Education, and Subchapter D, Duties of Publishers and Manufacturers, §67.81, Instructional Materials Contracts, and §67.83, Publisher Parent Portal, for second reading and final adoption. At that time, the board expressed a desire to clarify the rules related to the list of approved instructional materials outlined in TEC, §31.022.

Proposed new §67.43 would clarify the conditions under which the SBOE could remove instructional materials from the list of approved instructional materials as well as the list of rejected instructional materials. The proposed new section would also outline the timeline for these decisions and their impact on school district procurement.

The SBOE approved the proposed new section for first reading and filing authorization at its June 28, 2024 meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: Todd Davis, associate commissioner for instructional strategy, has determined that for the first five years the proposal is in effect, there are no additional costs to state or local government, including school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, required to comply with the proposal.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code, §2001.022.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis specified in Texas Government Code, §2006.002, is required.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0045.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would create a new regulation regarding the removal of a set of instructional materials from the lists of approved and rejected instructional materials outlined in TEC, §31.022.

The proposed rulemaking would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: Mr. Davis has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the proposal would be to provide clarification to districts and publishers regarding the conditions under which the SBOE could remove instructional materials from the list of approved instructional materials and the use of the entitlements outlined in TEC, §48.307 or §48.308, related to materials removed from the approved instructional materials list. There is no anticipated economic cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no data or reporting impact.

PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: TEA has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins August 2, 2024, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2024. The SBOE will take registered oral and written comments on the proposal at the appropriate committee meeting in September 2024 in accordance with the SBOE board operating policies and procedures. A request for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the commissioner of education not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the *Texas Register* on August 2, 2024.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The new section is proposed under Texas Education Code (TEC), §31.003(a), which permits the State Board of Education (SBOE) to adopt rules for the adoption, requisition, distribution, care, use, and disposal of instructional materials; and TEC, §31.022, as amended by House Bill 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, which requires the SBOE to review instructional materials that have been provided to the board by the Texas Education Agency under TEC, §31.023.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The new section implements Texas Education Code, §31.003(a) and §31.022, as amended by House Bill 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023

<rule>

§67.43. Lists of Approved and Rejected Instructional Materials.

- (a) The list of approved instructional materials shall be maintained by the State Board of Education (SBOE).
- (b) The SBOE may remove instructional materials from the list of approved instructional materials if:
 - (1) the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (TPG), or applicable English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) intended to be covered by the material are revised or a publisher revises the material without the approval of the SBOE in accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §31.022(c);
 - (2) the instructional materials, through a finding of the SBOE, are not compliant with the parent portal standards in §67.83 of this title (relating to Publisher Parent Portal); or
 - (3) the instructional materials violate any provisions of TEC, Chapter 31.
- (c) A publisher of the specific instructional material shall be provided a minimum of 30 days' notice of the proposed removal. A representative of the publisher of the specific instructional material shall be given the opportunity to address the SBOE at the meeting where the SBOE is considering removing that publisher's product from the list of approved materials.
- (d) If instructional materials are removed from the list of approved instructional materials, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may not apply the entitlements outlined in TEC, §48.307 or §48.308, to future purchases or subscriptions of the removed instructional materials.
- (e) A school district or an open-enrollment charter school that selects subscription-based instructional materials from the list of approved instructional materials approved under TEC, §31.022 and §31.023, may cancel the subscription and subscribe to a new instructional material on the list of approved instructional materials before the end of the state contract period under TEC, §31.026, if:

- (1) the district or charter school has used the instructional material for at least one school year and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) approves the change based on a written request to TEA by the district or charter school that specifies the reasons for changing the instructional material used by the district or charter school; or
- (2) the instructional material to which the district or charter school is subscribed is removed from the list of approved instructional materials by the SBOE.
- (f) The list of rejected instructional materials shall be maintained by the SBOE.
- (g) Instructional materials shall be removed from the list of rejected instructional materials if a publisher submits a revised set of instructional materials for review through the process required by TEC, §31.022 and §31.023, and the SBOE places the revised instructional materials on the list of approved instructional materials.
- (h) The SBOE may remove instructional materials from the list of rejected instructional materials if a publisher submits a revised set of instructional materials for review through the process required by TEC, §31.023 and §31.022, and the SBOE takes no action before the end of the calendar year.
- (i) This section applies to instructional materials approved by the SBOE after January 1, 2024.