# **Five Fast Facts on Texas OER for School Leaders**





### Texas OER are Open Education Resources owned by Texas.

To prepare Texas students for success after graduation, school systems must ensure that all students have access to effective teachers who use proven, rigorous instructional materials. To assist school systems with this, the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1605 which established a review process for instructional materials and directed TEA to develop a set of state-owned textbooks and instructional materials, Open Education Resources (OER). These are optional, high-quality instructional materials freely available to any Texas public school system.



## OER are optional for school systems.

Texas OER textbooks are being made available, subject to approval by the Texas State Board of Education, as an optional resource for schools. The State Board of Education will review materials, including OER, and will decide on high-quality materials on the approved list available to schools (Texas Education Code 31.022). Districts still have local discretion when selecting instructional materials (TEC 31.0211), and to choose materials to align with their local school board decisions to ratify curriculum and instructional materials



## Considerations for School Systems after the 2024 IMRA Process is Completed

#### **Choosing from the new SBOE-approved List**

School systems should consider many factors related to textbooks and instructional materials purchases from the new SBOE-approved list after the 2024 IMRA process has been completed. The transition to new materials should be well-planned out to ensure successful implementation. In addition, support for and engagement with teachers in the training and planning for new materials is key. The planning and implementation process can occur over multiple school years to best meet the needs of the staff, students, and community.

#### For districts currently using pilot COVID Emergency Release (CER) OER materials:

Depending upon a district's implementation planning, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, school systems can choose to transition from the COVID Emergency Release OER to the SBOE-approved OER Edition 1. Or districts may choose to review changes to the product and determine when purchasing new materials would fit into their implementation timeline. OER Edition 1 K-8 and Algebra I Math and K-5 RLA maintain the same instructional design, programmatic components, unit and lesson structure, and level of rigor as their CER counterparts. Improvements in key areas, such as customization opportunities for Texas school systems, enhanced teacher implementation supports, revisions based on user and stakeholder feedback, and alignment to the new SBOE Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) rubrics are included in the OER Edition 1 product.



## **Instructional Materials Funding for Texas Public Schools**

Districts may utilize IMTA funds to purchase any instructional materials and instructional technologies selected by the school system. HB 1605 established additional funding mechanisms for school systems to purchase high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) approved by the State Board of Education beyond the IMTA. Public school systems are entitled to \$40 per student per year to purchase any SBOE-approved HQIM instructional materials selected. This allotment accumulates in a school system's account even in a year when no requisitions are placed. For any school system that chooses to use Texas OER Textbooks, school systems are entitled to an additional \$20 per student per year to cover the costs of printing the textbooks. This allotment is only available for printing costs in the same year and does not accumulate in the school system. (OER Textbooks are free for anyone to download).



## Timeline for School Systems to Consider

Nov 2024 SBOE vote on approved HQIM Dec 2024 Updated EMAT site available to compare materials.

March 2025 Materials will be available in EMAT site to requisition SBOE-approved instructional materials Summer 2025 New materials shipped. School year 2025-26 begins