

LEARN MORE ABOUT

# Open Education Resources



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 (88R), which established a review process for instructional materials (see IMRA fact sheet) and directed TEA to develop a set of state-owned textbooks and instructional materials. These materials are called **Open Education Resources, or OER**.



## What are Open Education Resources (OER)?

Open Education Resources (OER) are optional, high-quality instructional materials that are freely available for use. In plain terms, they are textbooks owned by the state that can be modified over time to make them better and improve them for students and teachers.

- ▶ Texas OER textbooks are built specifically for Texans based on Texas' state standards, the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*.
- ▶ OER materials are also built using the best evidence from cognitive science, to ensure teachers have access to high-quality, on-grade-level materials, freeing up teacher time to provide the highest quality instruction and differentiated supports for students.
- ▶ Texas OER textbooks are being made available, subject to approval by the Texas State Board of Education, as an optional resource for schools.

## Texas OER Textbooks

### Grades & Subjects submitted to SBOE for the 2024 IMRA process

#### OER K-5 English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

OER K-5 Reading Language Arts (RLA) is built to cover the ELAR TEKS, weaving together elements of the science of reading with a cross-curricular knowledge building approach consistent with a classical education model that is focused on the fundamentals. OER RLA immerses students in classic literature along with reading lessons about art, history, culture, science, and technology. As a product built for Texas students, the content features strong representation from the diverse people, places, and history of Texans.

#### OER K-Algebra Math

OER Math instructional materials are a comprehensive and clearly sequenced suite of materials that provide teachers with the knowledge and tools outlined in the Math TEKS, guiding students to be thinkers and doers of mathematics. These instructional materials are built on basic scientific insights about how people learn math, growing out of cognitive and developmental sciences. With OER Math textbooks, students will learn the fundamentals to build a strong foundation in mathematics, mastering arithmetic, and memorizing math facts, while steadily building their mathematical reasoning skills.

After OER Textbooks are approved by the SBOE as approved high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), OER remains an optional resource for public schools. School systems in Texas have local control over which instructional materials to use.



## How does OER support teachers?

OER textbooks are useful tools for teachers to have on-grade-level, rigorous, and relevant instructional materials where students see their experiences represented in the curriculum.

- ▶ Clear, easy-to-interpret teacher guides, student activity books, student readers and problem sets, and classroom resources, are all designed to allow teachers to cover the TEKS at the highest rigor, and with scaffolded supports to close achievement gaps.
- ▶ Coherently developed and sequenced unit plans, lesson plans, student assignments, and aligned quizzes, are included to ensure students grow in mastery of the content over time.



## How does OER support parents and families?

Parents are a child's first teacher, and the Texas OER textbooks have been designed to ensure teachers and parents remain on the same page.

- ▶ Each unit to be taught from Texas OER textbooks comes with a family letter, so parents know exactly what their children will be learning, and with recommendations on how to engage in the learning at home.
- ▶ Texas OER student activity books are designed to be taken home, with additional information for families about the content students learn at school, and as a resource for homework.
- ▶ The entirety of the contents of the Texas OER materials are easily accessible on-line, so parents can see exactly what students are studying, and even see the content of lesson plans, so they can always know what their children are being taught.

---

## Instructional Materials Funding for Texas Public Schools

The Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) was restored in House Bill 1, 88th Texas Legislature, to traditional levels (approximately \$1 billion per biennium). School system IMTA account allocations have already been made based on HB 1. HB 1605 does not change the current IMTA process or structure. Districts may spend IMTA funds on any instructional materials and instructional technologies.

HB1605 established additional funding for school systems, above funds provided by the IMTA:

- ▶ To support the purchase of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) approved by the State Board of Education, public school systems are entitled to \$40 per student per year.
- ▶ For any school system that chooses to use Texas OER Textbooks, school systems are entitled to an additional \$20 per student to cover the costs of printing the textbooks. (OER Textbooks are free for anyone to download).

To review OER textbooks, visit [sboe.texas.gov/imra](http://sboe.texas.gov/imra)