

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) adopts an amendment to §150.1001, concerning teacher appraisal. The amendment is adopted with changes to the proposed text as published in the July 3, 2026 issue of the *Texas Register* (51 TexReg 4327) and will be republished. The adopted amendment establishes new provisions related to pilot activities supporting the development or revision of the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS).

REASONED JUSTIFICATION: Section 150.1001 establishes general provisions related to teacher appraisal system selection, implementation of T-TESS, and statutory appraisal components.

The adopted amendment to §150.1001 adds new subsection (g) authorizing the commissioner to identify school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to participate in pilot activities supporting the development or revision of the T-TESS. The adopted amendment allows the commissioner to establish alternative requirements or timelines for school districts and charter schools participating in commissioner-approved pilot activities and clarifies that appraisal processes implemented in accordance with approved pilot requirements are considered in compliance with Chapter 150, Subchapter AA.

The adopted amendment is intended to support the ongoing development and continuous improvement of the T-TESS by providing a structured process for testing potential revisions to appraisal components, processes, or timelines in a limited number of school districts or charter schools. Adding pilot authority to the general provisions ensures clear rule-level authorization for pilot implementation while maintaining statewide consistency and compliance with statutory appraisal requirements.

Subsection (g) was modified at adoption to correct a clerical error from "charter schools who choose to participate" to "charter schools who agree to participate."

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSES: The public comment period on the proposal began July 3, 2026, and ended August 3, 2026. No public comments were received.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendment is adopted under Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.351, which requires the commissioner of education to adopt a state-recommended appraisal process for teachers; and TEC, §21.352, which establishes requirements for school districts' selection of teacher appraisal systems.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendment implements Texas Education Code, §21.351 and §21.352.

<rule>

§150.1001. General Provisions.

- (a) All school districts have two choices in selecting a method to appraise teachers: a teacher appraisal system recommended by the commissioner of education or a local teacher appraisal system.
- (b) The commissioner's recommended teacher appraisal system, the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS), was developed in accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.351.
- (c) The superintendent of each school district, with the approval of the school district board of trustees, may select the T-TESS. Each school district or campus wanting to select or develop an alternative teacher appraisal system must follow the TEC, §21.352, and §150.1007 of this title (relating to Alternatives to the Commissioner's Recommended Appraisal System).
- (d) The commissioner may designate a regional education service center to serve as the T-TESS certification provider for the state. The designated regional education service center may collect appropriate fees under the TEC, §8.053, from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for training and certification.
- (e) Sections 150.1002 through 150.1006 of this title (relating to Assessment of Teacher Performance; Appraisals, Data Sources, and Conferences; Teacher Response and Appeals; Appraiser Qualifications; and Teacher Orientation) apply only to the T-TESS and not to local teacher appraisal systems.
- (f) The statutorily required components of teacher appraisal are defined as follows.

- (1) The implementation of discipline management procedures is the teacher's pedagogical practices that produce student engagement and establish the learning environment.
 - (2) The performance of teachers' students is how the individual teacher's students progress academically in response to the teacher's pedagogical practice as measured at the individual teacher level by one or more student growth measures.
- (g) The commissioner may identify school districts and open-enrollment charter schools who agree to participate in pilot activities supporting the development or revision of the T-TESS. For pilot participants, the commissioner may establish alternative requirements or timelines related to §§150.1002, 150.1003, and 150.1005 of this title. School districts and charter schools that implement appraisal processes in accordance with commissioner-approved pilot requirements shall be considered in compliance with this subchapter.