

General Description:

Rider 31 directs the commissioner to set aside \$200,000 in each fiscal year of the 2018–2019 biennium to provide audio versions of state-adopted instructional materials for kindergarten through 12th grade students with visual impairments and other print disabilities.

Through a request for proposals process, Learning Ally was awarded the contract for the production of recorded instructional materials. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools order recorded instructional materials adopted since 2010 through the online instructional materials ordering system known as EMAT. Instructional materials adopted prior to November 2009 are ordered directly from Learning Ally.

Recorded instructional materials contain all student material in any adopted program, including workbooks, and teacher materials that are clearly intended for student use, such as blackline masters and assessments. Districts order the materials for each student whose individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan requires the use of audio instructional materials to meet that student’s learning needs. Local school districts are responsible for ensuring this requirement has been met prior to requisitioning the materials.

TEA seeks to ensure that quality audio instructional materials are delivered to students with print disabilities at the same time that other students receive their instructional materials.

Authority:

Texas Education Code (TEC), §31.028

General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 31, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Appropriation	FY 2018	FY 2019
	\$200,000	\$200,000
Use of Funds		
Audio Materials for Students with Visual Impairments or Learning Disabilities	\$21,280 (YTD)	N/A
Total	\$21,280	N/A

Resources:

Instructional Materials Division:

https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Instructional_Materials/Accessible_Instructional_Materials/

Learning Ally:

<http://www.learningally.org/Educators/school-grants/Texas>

