

## General Description:

Rider 31 directs the Commissioner to set aside \$200,000 in each fiscal year of the 2022–2023 biennium to provide audio versions of state-adopted instructional materials for Pre-K 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 audio recorded instructional materials. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools order state-adopted recorded instructional materials through the online instructional materials ordering system known as EMAT.

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.

## Goals and Objectives or Anticipated Outcomes:

Recorded instructional materials should meet all technical specifications required by TEA and be provided to ordering districts and charters in the most expedient manner possible, not to exceed 30 days from the date of order.

## Authority and Funding:

Texas Education Code (TEC), §31.028  
 General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 31, 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature

### Instructional Materials Quality Review Milestones

#### Benefit to Students

- **School Year 2017-18**  
Audiobooks Ordered - 165
- **School Year 2018-19**  
Audiobooks Ordered - 70
- **School Year 2019-20**  
Audiobooks Ordered - 76
- **School Year 2020-21**  
Audiobooks Ordered - 58
- **School Year 2021-22**  
Audiobooks Ordered - 43
- **School Year 2022-23 (YTD)**  
Audiobooks Ordered – 23

*\*Decrease in number of audiobooks ordered due to increasing availability of downloadable assistive materials and built-in recorded instructional materials from publishers*

- **Ongoing:** Through an ICC with Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, accessible formats of adopted instructional materials are reviewed for quality on an ongoing basis.

Appropriations FY 2021, Rider 31, Texas Legislature 2021	\$200,000.00
Expenditures, Audio Materials, FY 2021	\$55,786.32
Appropriations FY 2022, Rider 31, Texas Legislature 2021	\$200,000.00
Expenditures, Audio Materials, FY 2022 (YTD)	\$10,409.43