

DATE:	August 28, 2025
SUBJECT:	Senate Bill 13 Requirements Related to School Library Materials
CATEGORY:	School Libraries
NEXT STEPS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a local policy is adopted before the first day of the 2025-2026 school year• Publish and use the TEA-developed challenge form• Share with campus administrators and librarians

Senate Bill (SB) 13, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, adds new requirements related to a school district's library materials and catalog. These requirements include:

- Ensuring parents have access to the library catalog and can control which library materials their students can access
- Ensuring an effective library material challenge process, including, if appropriate, the use of a local school library advisory council
- Updating the school system's library materials acquisition policy

These requirements are outlined in greater detail below. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has developed guidance for a model Library Materials Policy as an option to assist school systems in complying with the new requirements. That guidance is available online on the [Texas Education Agency Model Policies and Guidance for Texas School Systems](#) webpage.

Parental Rights Regarding Access to Library Materials

SB 13 requires school systems to adopt procedures that allow parents of enrolled children to access the school's catalog of library materials and submit a list of materials their child may not be allowed to check out or access outside the school library. The procedures must allow parents to do the following:

- Access the district or school's online library catalog system
- Submit a list of materials using an electronic or physical form

Each time the parent's child checks out or uses library material outside the school library, public schools that use a learning management system (LMS) or online learning portal must provide each parent with a record including the title, author, genre and return date, as applicable.

Local School Library Advisory Council

A school district board of trustees may choose to establish a local school library advisory council at any time to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the district. However, if the parents of at least 10% of enrolled students or at least 50 parents (whichever is fewer) present a petition to the board of trustees to establish an advisory council, the district must do so.

Materials Acquisition Policy

SB 13 also requires the board of trustees of each school district to adopt a policy for the acquisition of library materials, which includes procedures for the procurement of library

materials and the receipt of donated library materials before the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

TEA determinations of compliance with the requirement to adopt a policy prior to the start of the school year will take into consideration demonstration of a good faith effort to make progress toward adopting the required policy as soon as possible if a policy is not in place prior to the start of the school year.

Each time a school library catalog is updated, the board of trustees must approve or reject the list of proposed library materials at the first open meeting of the board held 30 days or later after the list is made available to the public.

If a school district establishes a local school library advisory council, the council must meet to determine its recommendations before the date of the board of trustees' open meeting, when the board would vote to approve or reject a list of library materials. School districts should consider identifying the frequency of library catalog updates in their local materials acquisition policies.

Challenge or Appeal Regarding Library Materials

A parent, a district employee, or a person residing in the district may submit a written challenge to any library material in the school library catalog or an appeal to the board of trustees of an action taken by the district in response to a received written challenge. If a district establishes a local school library advisory council, the district must provide a copy of the challenge to the council no later than the fifth day after the written challenge is received. The council must then make a recommendation for action no later than the 90th day after the council receives the challenge.

A board of trustees must act on a written challenge at the first open meeting held after the 90th day after receipt of a written challenge, or if applicable, after the advisory council has made a recommendation regarding the challenge. The board must act on an appeal at the first open meeting held after the appeal is filed.

The new statute requires TEA to adopt and make available on its website a form to be used in making a written challenge to library materials, and districts must post the form on their websites. The TEA form, along with related instructions and suggestions, can be accessed on the [Texas Education Agency Model Policies and Guidance for Texas School Systems](#) webpage. School districts must post this form on their website as soon as practicable and are encouraged to make the form as easy for parents to access as possible, including allowing them to complete and submit the form online.

School System Action Required

School systems must take the following actions related to the implementation of SB 13:

- Update or adopt a policy for the acquisition of library materials that complies with all requirements of SB 13 prior to the start of the 2025-2026 school year or no later than the first scheduled meeting following the start of the school year.
- Update or adopt procedures to allow parents to access the school catalog of library materials and submit lists of materials that their children may not be allowed to check out or access outside the school library.

- These procedures should permit parents to submit a list of materials using an electronic or physical form or the district's or school's online library catalog system.
- Determine whether to establish a local school library advisory council.
- Finalize the library material challenge form provided by TEA with information specific to your school system by embedding a link to the relevant local policy and adding district-specific details for how to submit the form and post the form in an easily accessible location on the district's website.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Collection Development Standards

Existing law requires the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to adopt, with approval by majority vote of the State Board of Education (SBOE), standards for school library collection development that a school district must adhere to in developing or implementing the district's library collection development policies. SB 13 requires TSLAC to update its rules related to library collection development standards no later than April 1, 2026. TSLAC has initiated this process and is expected to adopt updates effective March 2026. Additional information, including any updates to the policy guidance from TEA, will be shared after the TSLAC standards have been updated.

Questions

For questions regarding SB 13, please email 89th@tea.texas.gov.