

To the Administrator Addressed

Commissioner Mike Morath

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DATE:	May 29, 2025
SUBJECT:	School System Preparation for Local Classroom Reviews 2025-2026
CATEGORY:	HB 1605—Local Classroom Reviews
NEXT STEPS:	Share with appropriate staff

Local Classroom Reviews Background

The Local Classroom Review process establishes a local school system's instructional materials review process under <u>House Bill (HB) 1605</u>, 88th Regular Session, <u>Texas Education Code (TEC)</u>, §31.0252.

Local Classroom Reviews conducted under HB 1605 are designed to accomplish specific objectives to determine the degree to which instructional materials in classrooms:

- (1) correspond with the instructional materials adopted by the school district or district campus; and
- (2) meet the level of rigor of the essential knowledge and skills adopted under TEC, §28.002 for the grade level in which it is being used.

Local classroom review rubrics, approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE), will be used to determine whether assignments are at grade level. The rubrics can be found on the <u>Local Classroom</u> Reviews page.

The instructional materials that can be reviewed through this process are aligned to the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) rubric development schedule and review cycles. As such, local classroom reviews for the 2025–26 school year could take place in classrooms that teach K–3 English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) Foundational Literacy Skills and Reading Comprehension, 4–8 ELAR Reading Comprehension, and K–12 Mathematics.

Local Classroom Review Parent Request Process

Parents can review instructional materials through individual parent requests in accordance with local policy. Parents may also submit a petition, according to statutory requirements, to the local school board for a local classroom review as described in TEC, §26.0061. Parents can request a local classroom review through their local school systems beginning September 1, 2025, per 19 TAC §67.69.

During the April 2025 meeting, the SBOE approved §67.69, which outlines process requirements to support parents in requesting local classroom reviews. School systems must establish a process for parents to request a local classroom review of instructional materials for their child's grade level under TEC, §31.0252. This process must include guidelines for petition submission and require the board to consider petitions at the next regular meeting following submission. Additionally, it must detail the required information for petitions and establish an appeal procedure for denied petitions, including steps, criteria, and timelines for appeals, per §67.69.

A webinar will be posted on the Local Classroom Reviews page no later than Wednesday, June 25, 2025, outlining guidance for parents on the local classroom reviews.

Local Classroom Review District Requests

School systems can request a district-wide local classroom review by submitting a request to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) beginning September 1, 2025, per 19 TAC §67.1501.

Proposed <u>commissioner of education rule 19 TAC §67.1501</u> provides clarification on the process requirements for a school district to request a local classroom review. Until the above-referenced rule is adopted, districts should ensure:

- timely communication with all stakeholders,
- district-wide data management processes are established to track requests and teacher participation in local classroom reviews,
- clear expectations for implementation of the local classroom reviews and processes to support publishing review reports on the district website.

A webinar will be posted on the Local Classroom Reviews page no later than Wednesday, June 25, 2025, outlining guidance for districts on the local classroom reviews and the support available to them.

Local Classroom Review Cost

Parent-initiated requests approved by the district will be prioritized and conducted at no cost to parents as long as funding is available.

School district requests for district-wide reviews of local classroom instructional materials will be conducted with grant funds as long as they are available. Once grant funds are exhausted, districts may continue to submit district-wide requests with the option to use local funds to conduct the reviews.

For Further Information

Please visit the <u>Local Classroom Reviews page</u> or submit a <u>Instructional Materials Help Desk ticket</u> with any questions related to the Local Classroom Review rubrics or processes.