

**Superintendents,**

Below is the summary debrief of the TEA Monthly Superintendent call that took place on January 15, 2026:

Posted recently on [tea.texas.gov](http://tea.texas.gov) & <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/superintendents>

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**1/15/26 Call Agenda:**

- **State Match Broadband Development Grant**
  - [Texas State Match for E-rate Webpage](#)
  - The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is offering a State Match Fund up to \$5,000,000 to help eligible school systems enhance their federal E-rate support. These funds are intended to support eligible E-rate projects, provided that each grantee meets the standards outlined in Texas Government Code Section 4901.0106, which governs broadband infrastructure eligibility for participating school districts.
  - **March 04, 2026:** The last day to file a Form 470 for use with a Form 471.
  - **April 01, 2026:** FY 2026 Form 471 Application Window closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT. FY26 Texas State Match Form.A must be completed and submitted no later than this date.
  - For questions, contact [erate@tea.texas.gov](mailto:erate@tea.texas.gov)
- **K-12 Cybersecurity Initiative Updates Webinar**
  - TAA: [Safeguarding Our Future: K-12 Cybersecurity Initiative Updates Webinar](#) Published January 8, 2026
  - **Webinar: Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m. — 10:00a.m. CST**
  - The webinar will highlight resources available through the K-12 Cybersecurity Initiative and provide practical guidance to help school systems enhance security.
  - Registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Z2RLUy47SNG4Ida83-HzTA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z2RLUy47SNG4Ida83-HzTA)
  - For more information, contact the TEA Cybersecurity team at [cybersecurity@tea.texas.gov](mailto:cybersecurity@tea.texas.gov)
- **Special Education Data Collection and Education Savings Accounts**
  - TAA: [Actions Required of School Systems for Education Savings Accounts](#) Published January 15, 2026
  - Key Dates:
  - **January 22, 2026:** School systems can begin to request user accounts for the APEX-ESA system in TEAL
  - **February 2, 2026:** APEX-ESA system opens for data entry (expected)
  - **March 17, 2026:** APEX-ESA upload deadline (expected)
  - Resources:
  - **Webinar:** hosted by TEA on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 2:00 pm**, to preview APEX-ESA; [registration link for webinar](#).
  - Information from the Comptroller on ESAs: [Texas Education Freedom Accounts](#)
  - For more information and questions, please contact [89th@tea.texas.gov](mailto:89th@tea.texas.gov).

- **House Bill 20 (89R): Applied Sciences Pathway Program**
  - TAA: [Applied Sciences Pathway Program](#) Published January 15, 2026
  - House Bill 20, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, establishes the Applied Sciences Pathway Program in Texas Education Code, §29.914. This program is designed to provide students in grades 11-12 with opportunities to concurrently earn a high school diploma and complete a certificate program with a successful job placement rate in high-wage, high-growth jobs in one of several industries.
  - Districts may begin implementing this program with the 2026-27 school year.
  - **The application for the 2026-27 school year opens January 15, 2026, and closes May 15, 2026.**
  - Additional information and resources, including a link to the application, are included on TEA's [Applied Sciences Pathway Program webpage](#).
  - **Webinar:** Additional program application and implementation details will be shared in a webinar on **February 18, 2026, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. CST**. [Register for the webinar](#). If you have a question you would like to have addressed during the webinar, submit it via the [Applied Sciences Pathway Program Webinar Questions Form](#).
- **Approved Instructional Materials List via the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) Process**
  - All SBOE-approved instructional materials will be considered [high-quality instructional materials \(HQIM\)](#) and eligible for the new funding entitlements outlined in TEC 48, Sections 48.307 and 48.308. For school systems, this means access to an additional \$540 million in instructional materials formula funding, on top of the funds already allocated via the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA).
  - Please visit the [IMRA website](#) for updates on the approved materials.
  - **Next steps for districts:**
    - Review detailed IMRA reports from cycles 2024 and 2025 at <https://im.tea.texas.gov/>.
    - Use the information provided in the IMRA reports to guide decisions for instructional materials for the upcoming school year and before completing the [Annual Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials](#) in **February 2026**.
    - Ensure compliance with HB 100 by verifying that no rejected materials are in use or planned for adoption for school year 2026-27.
    - Verify that instructional materials for direct phonics instruction in grades K-3 do not include three-cueing.
    - And, if your chosen phonics program does not fully meet the criteria in [19 TAC §74.2001](#) (Commissioner's rules on reading practices), ensure it is replaced or supplemented with a program that does meet all requirements.
- **House Bill 1605 (88R) Vocabulary and Literary Works List**
  - [Proposed Vocabulary and Literary Works List](#)
  - House Bill 1605 (88R) requires a new vocabulary and book list (literary works list) addendum to the reading language arts (RLA) standards. In preparation for the SBOE's first reading in January 2026, the Agency has prepared a proposed rule for the SBOE's consideration for a required literary works list per grade level. The proposed rule would take effect in schools during the 2030-31 school year to ensure sufficient time for the transition for publishers & curriculum writers, school systems, and teachers.
    - [Background: Pre-Read to Support Review of List \(PDF\)](#) | January 9, 2025
    - [TEA: Literary Works List & Proposed Rule Language \(PDF\)](#) | January 9, 2025
- **Holocaust Remembrance Week, January 26-30, 2026**
  - TAA: [Holocaust Remembrance Week Educational Resources](#) Published January 8, 2026

- Instructional resources provided by the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC) are available to school systems throughout the year, and especially during Holocaust Remembrance Week, which occurs the week of January 26–30, 2026. Staff at the THGAAC are available to support educators in Texas public schools including providing speakers for campuses and classrooms.  
[Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission](#) (THGAAC)
- [Request a speaker from THGAAC](#)

  

- **Next Call: Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM**
  - Superintendents, to receive monthly call reminders via email, please update your information via AskTED. If you are not receiving call reminder emails, please check your Gov Delivery subscriptions or connect with your ESC or TEA for support with AskTED.