

DAZED & CONFUSED: Tales from the 88th and the Impact on C&I

MOAKCASEY • November 2023

“All right,
All right,
All right”

Accountability

HB 1225

Allows for any student to request to take a state assessment on paper.

- For fall admin, deadline is 9/15 and for spring, the deadline is 12/1
- Only 3% of a district's exams may be on paper. If more are requested, allow on a FCFS basis.
- Any paper exams required by IEP or 504 do not count towards 3%.

HB 1883

Notes that districts may not schedule state testing on religious holidays, including: All Saints Day, Christmas, Diwali, Eid al-Adha, Eidal-Fitr, Good Friday, Immaculate Conception, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Vaisakhi, Holy Thursday, Vesak, Reformation Day, and Yom Kippur.

Notable Bills: Accelerated Learning (HB 4545 Relief)



HB 1416

(Representative Keith Bell)

Limits
accelerated
instruction to 2
subject areas per
student,
prioritizing RLA
and Math

A minimum of 15
hours is required,
but a full 30
hours is required
for students who
score significantly
below standard

Relaxes
student:teacher
ratios to 4:1

Eliminates
Accelerated
Learning
Committees;
instead,
requires written
plans for
students below
grade level for
2 or more years

Parental Opt-
Outs of
Accelerated
Learning
requirements

Texas State Library & SBOE must adopt standards for school districts to consider in developing, implementing or expanding library services

Requires schoolbook vendors to provide a "rating" for books with sexually explicit behavior sold in the previous year and to annually submit a list of books rated as sexually relevant or sexually explicit material which must be posted on the TEA website

The agency may re-review a book not rated and retain the right to cease all sales of the book and issue a recall for all copies sold to districts and maintain a list of vendors who fail to comply ; districts may NOT purchase books from any vendors on the list

Districts must review district or schoolbooks rated as "sexually relevant" material and determine whether to retain the book; the district must also submit to the agency a report of each book rated as "sexually explicit" and a decision regarding the book

Notable Bills: **READER Bill**

HB 900

(Representative Patterson)

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Not So Fast...

Notable Bills: **READER Bill**
HB 900
(Representative Patterson)



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has set a tentative schedule to decide whether a judge's order blocking the state's controversial book rating law, HB 900, should stand. But an administrative stay issued last week by a separate motions panel of the Fifth Circuit remains in force—meaning that, despite being found unconstitutional, the law is now in effect, putting Texas booksellers in a precarious position.

[Andrew Albanese 9-26-23](#)

Establishes a rigorous curriculum vetting process to support teachers in utilizing high quality, grade-level instructional materials (HQIM) and guarantees curriculum transparency for parents

Requires professional development and on-going implementation support for teachers to ensure HQIM understanding and rigorous instruction for ALL students

Districts are entitled to an allotment to procure HQIM and TEA will maintain a list of OER (Open Educational Resources) on their website

Prohibits districts to require teachers to spend time creating or selecting instruction materials unless the contract specifies this duty.

Notable Bills: HQIM



HB 1605

(Representative/Chairman Buckley)

ne of
belonging to a
legislate, lej'is-lāt,
legislating. [L. lex, legis,
fero, latum, to give, pass,
LEGAL.] To make or enact
laws.—**legislation**
The act of legislating
laws; laws when enacted
lative, lej'is-lā-tiv, a. En
having power or author
certaining to th
branch

A few more bills of interest...

- **Signed by governor and effective immediately:** [SB 68](#) (Zaffirini/Murr) permits a school district to excuse a student who is a junior or senior in high school from school for a “career investigation day” that involves visiting a professional at their workplace for the purpose of determining the student’s interest in pursuing a career in the professional’s field.
- **Signed by the governor and effective September 1, 2023:** [SB 798](#) (Middleton/Buckley) states that the qualifications for certification as a **school** counselor may not include a requirement that a candidate for certification have experience as a classroom teacher.
- **Signed by governor and effective immediately:** [SB 838](#) (Creighton/Thierry) requires school districts and charters to provide **panic alert devices in all classrooms**.
- **Signed by governor and effective immediately:** [SB 2124](#) (Creighton/Howard) Automatically enrolls successful 5th graders in accelerated math courses to put them on track for Algebra I in grade 8.

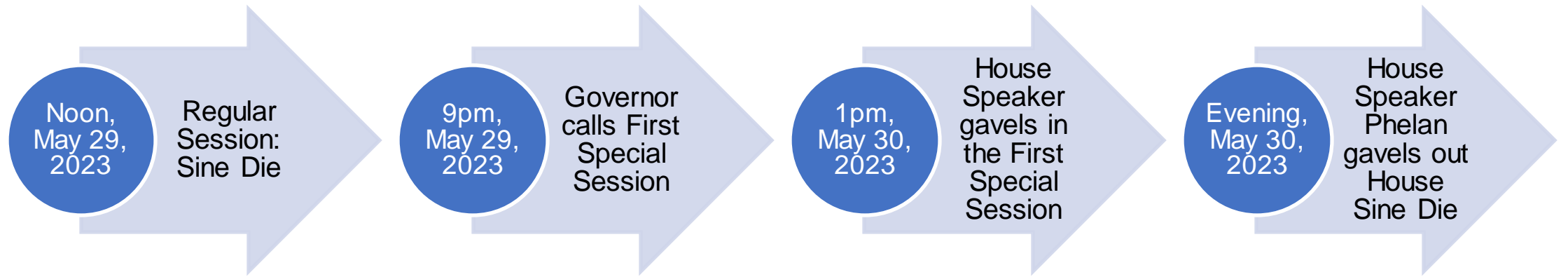
And just a few more bills of interest...

- **Signed by the governor and effective September 1, 2023:** [HB 1789](#) (Buckley/Flores) allows school district boards of trustees to **exempt the appointment or employment of public-school bus drivers from nepotism** prohibitions if the board approved the appointment or employment.
- **Signed by the governor and effective immediately:** [HB 1212](#) (Jetton/Kolkhorst) **prohibits a school district from requiring a note from a clergy member or other religious leader to excuse a student absence related to the observance of a religious holy day**. The school district would be required to accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation.
- **Signed by the governor and effective September 1, 2023:** [HB 567](#) (Bowers/Miles) **prohibits** any student dress or grooming policy adopted by a school district or public institution of higher education, including a student dress or grooming policy for any extracurricular activity, from **discriminating against a hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race**.

First Special Session: 5/29/23 – 6/27/23

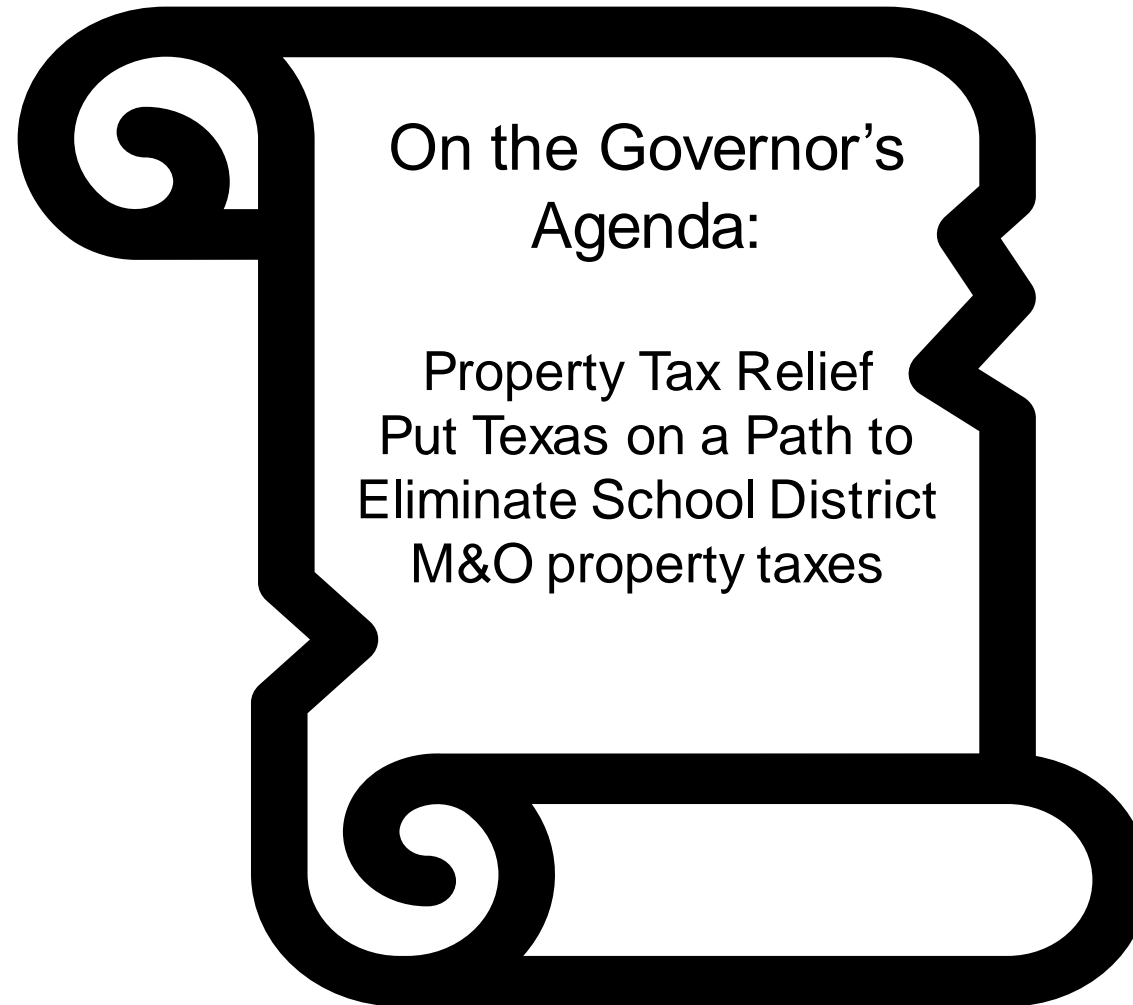


First Special Session: 5/29/23 – 6/27/23



Education Bills Filed and Passed: 0.0

Second Special Session: 06/27/23 – 7/13/23



Education Bills Filed and Passed: 0.0*

*unless you count property tax relief as an education bill



....And Then Some
Really Crazy Stuff
Happened!

The regular Texas legislative session started with a record budget surplus and ended with an impeached attorney general

The 2023 legislative session started with a \$32.7 billion surplus. It was mired in Republican infighting and multiple scandals. Then, the House impeached the state's attorney general.

BY KATE MCGEE AND MATTHEW WATKINS MAY 29, 2023 UPDATED: 10 PM CENTRAL

SHARE REPUBLISH ↗



House Speaker Dade Phelan gavels out the session on May 29. © Bob Daemmrich for The Texas Tribune

Paxton Acquitted on all 16 articles of Impeachment

“Only two of the 19 Republican Senators voted in favor of convicting for any article – a stark contrast to the more than 70% of House Republicans who impeached the AG in May.”

[Texas Tribune, 9-16-23](#)



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, center, sits between defense attorneys Tony Buzbee, left, and Mitch Little, right, before starting

Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday his long-awaited special session on “school choice” will start next month while promising political consequences for lawmakers who stand in the way of his priority legislation.

\$4 Billion hangs in the balance...

Texas Tribune 9-19-23

Gov. Greg Abbott says special legislative session on “school choice” coming in October

The governor promised political consequences if lawmakers cannot pass legislation allowing for publicly subsidized school vouchers before March primaries.

BY PATRICK SVITEK SEPT. 19, 2023 4 PM CENTRAL

SHARE REPUBLISH ↗



Gov. Greg Abbott speaks about the recent 88th Legislative Session to an audience at the Texas Public Policy Foundation offices in Austin, on June 2, 2023. © Evan L'Roy/The Texas Tribune

Third Special Session: 10/9/23 – 11/7/23

10-31-23:
BUT WAIT!
Reports of an agreement
between Speaker Phelan
and Governor Abbott....

10-31-23:
Clarification:
Governor Abbott said it was
an agreement; Speaker
Phelan said it was opening
a discussion...

10-31-23:
Governor Abbott expands
the call to include additional
school funding, such as
teacher pay raises, school
safety, and special
education...could this be
the breakthrough everyone
wants?

On the Governor's
Agenda:

"Education Freedom"
Border Security
Public Safety
Ending COVID Restrictions

11-1-23:
Public Ed Committee Chair
Buckley reports that there
is not enough time in the
session to pass anything...

Education Bills Filed ~~and Passed~~: 2.0



Meanwhile....the 2023
Accountability Ratings
Have Entered...

THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

Shout out to Round Rock ISD's
Westwood Band!

AND ALSO MEANWHILE....

The Rangers won the World Series, schools are open, football is winding down to exciting season finales, bands are playing....and our public schools are trying as usual, to do more with less....and schools are still charged with implementing HB 4545 and HB 1605.



INSIDE BASEBALL: THE BACK STORY

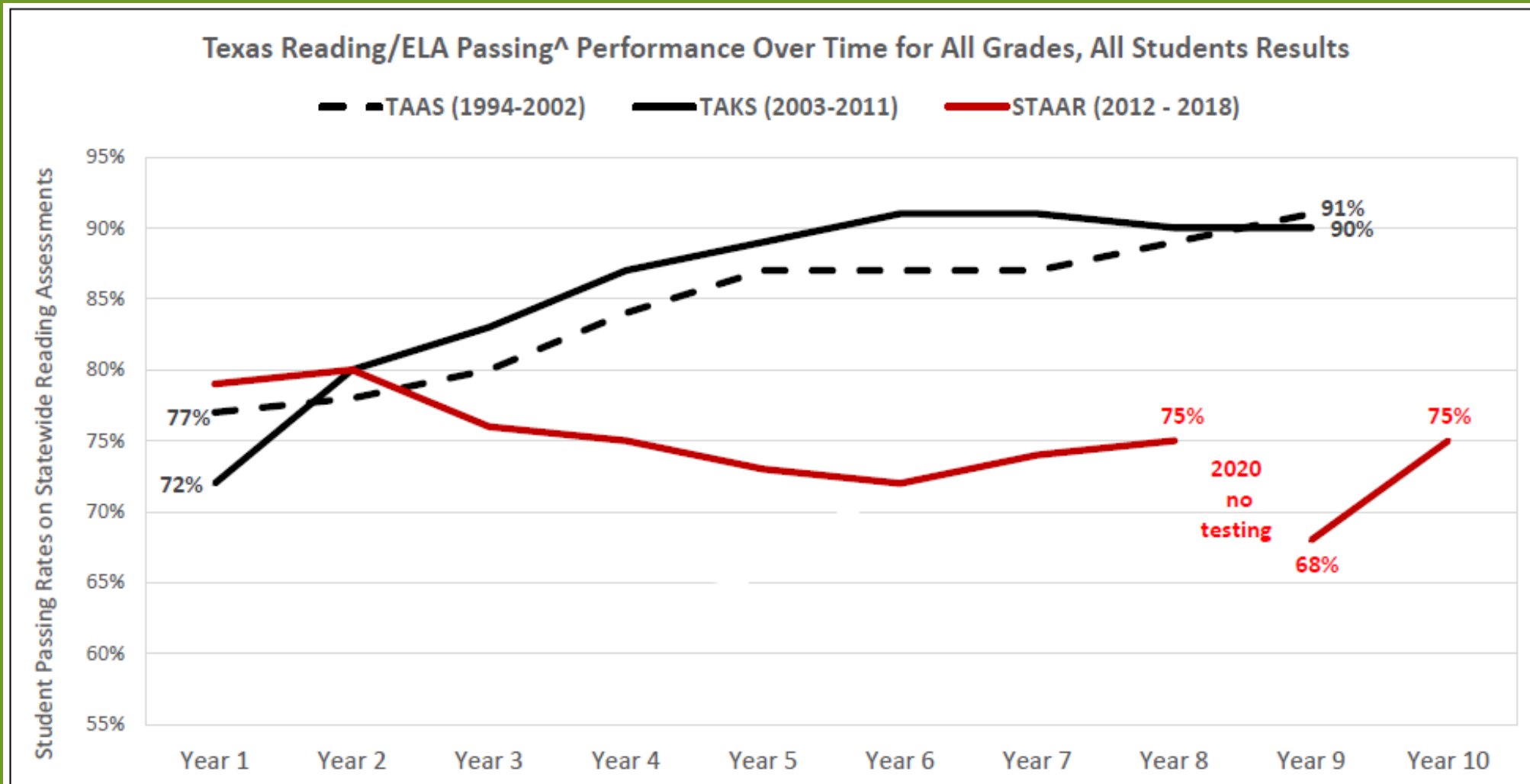
- In the summer of 2011, during the 82nd Texas Legislature's first special session, **Senate Bill 6** was passed. This bill was a dramatic shift for the distribution of textbooks from a State funded and (SBOE approved) adoption-based distribution system to a local, allotment system (IMA).
- Before SB 6, SBOE approved a list of textbooks that were conforming (% TEKS coverage) or non-conforming (<100% coverage) and funding correlated with TEKS coverage.
- SB 6 changed law so that school districts could get full textbook funding even if they never purchased an SBOE-approved textbook AND funding could also be used for other kinds of instructional materials.





Texas Assessment Data Trend since 2011

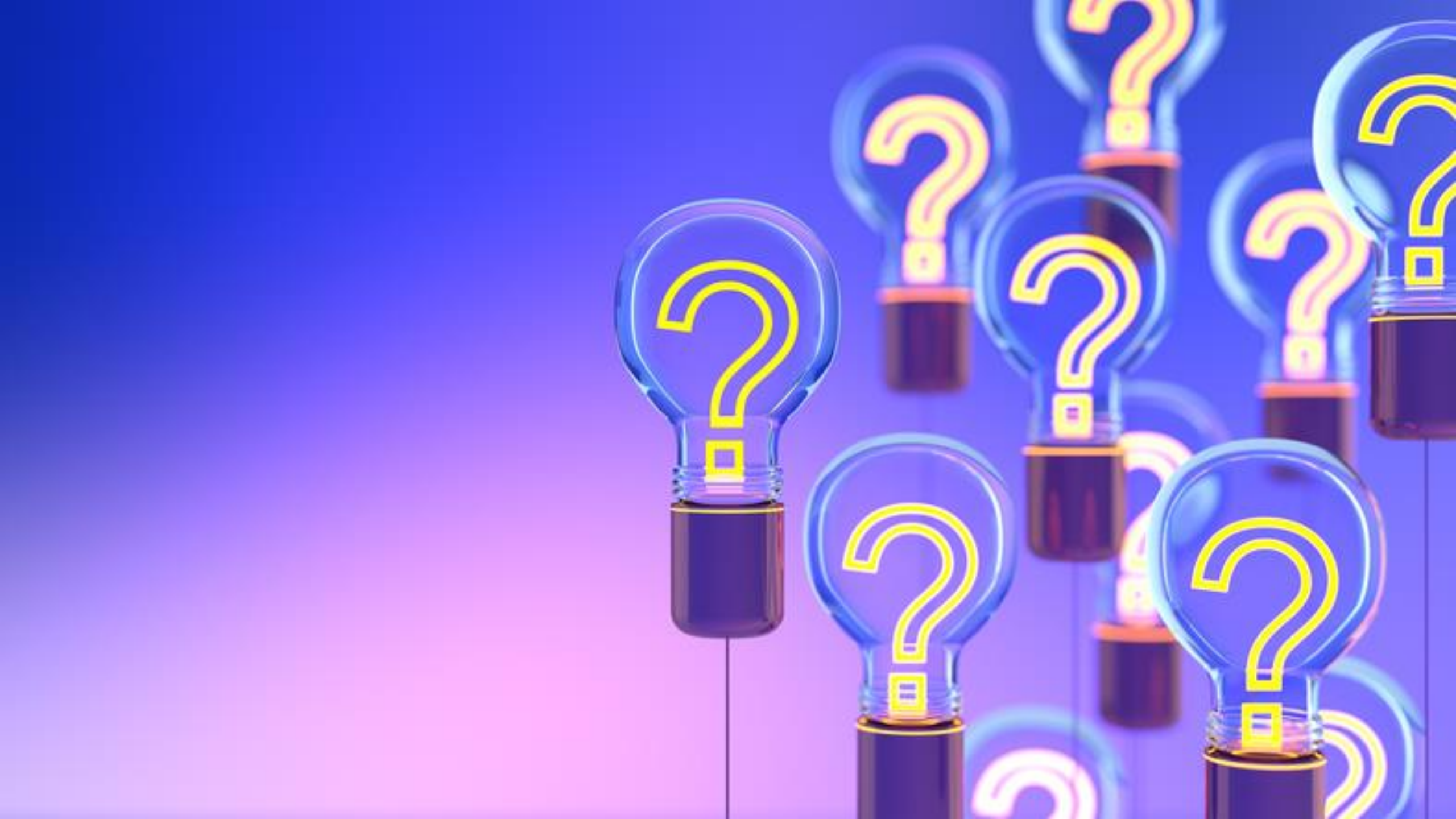
STAAR DID NOT FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF PAST ASSESSMENTS: ELA



[^]All TAKS results are shown at the Panel Recommended student passing standard.

[^]TEA set the STAAR passing standard at Phase in 1 Satisfactory for 2012-2016; then "Approaches Grade Level" for 2016 - present.

Source: TEA Statewide Summary Reports; AEIS 1994-2002 (TAAS), AEIS 2003-2011 (TAKS), and TAPR 2012 - 2022 (STAAR)



Since SB 6, school systems have used more instructional materials that are not from an SBOE adoption

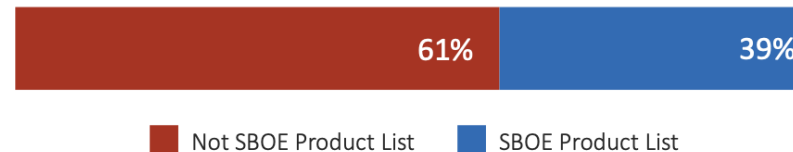


All Instructional Materials Adoptions by
LEAs in **ELA K-12**

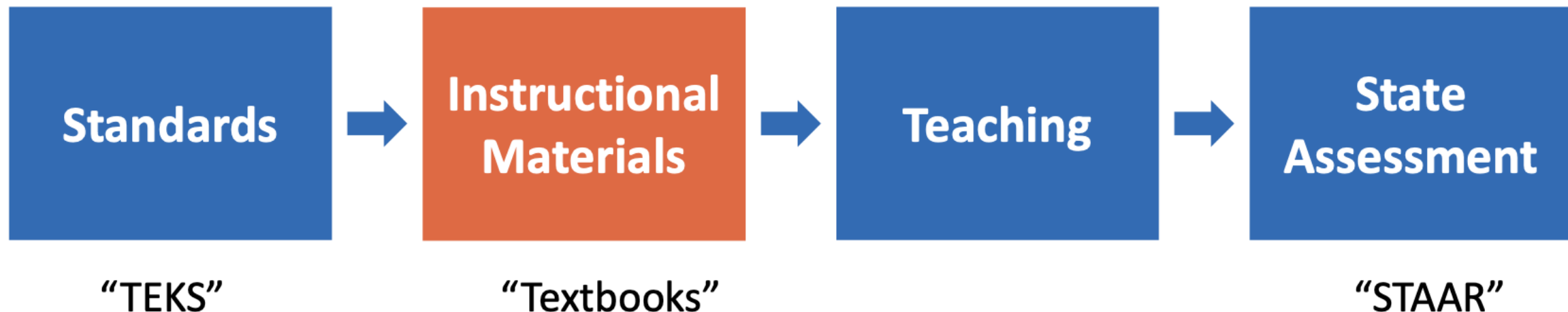


72% of instructional materials adopted by LEAs for ELAR are not SBOE-approved.

All Instructional Materials Adoptions by
LEAs in **Math K-12**



61% of instructional materials adopted by LEAs for math are not SBOE-approved.



HB 1605 returns control over instructional materials to the SBOE
to support a shift back to providing textbooks as a resource for teachers



With the passage of **HB 1605**,
the elected **State Board of Education**
now has control over

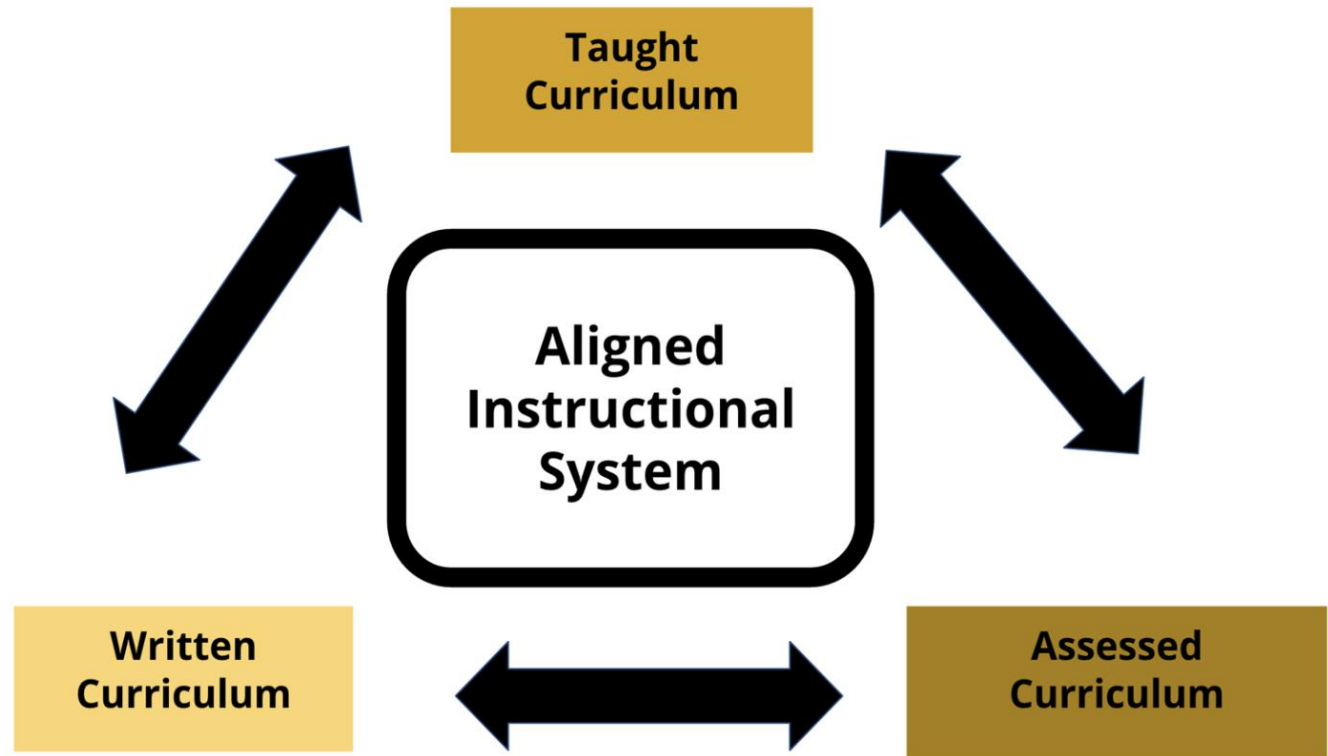
\$324,175,680

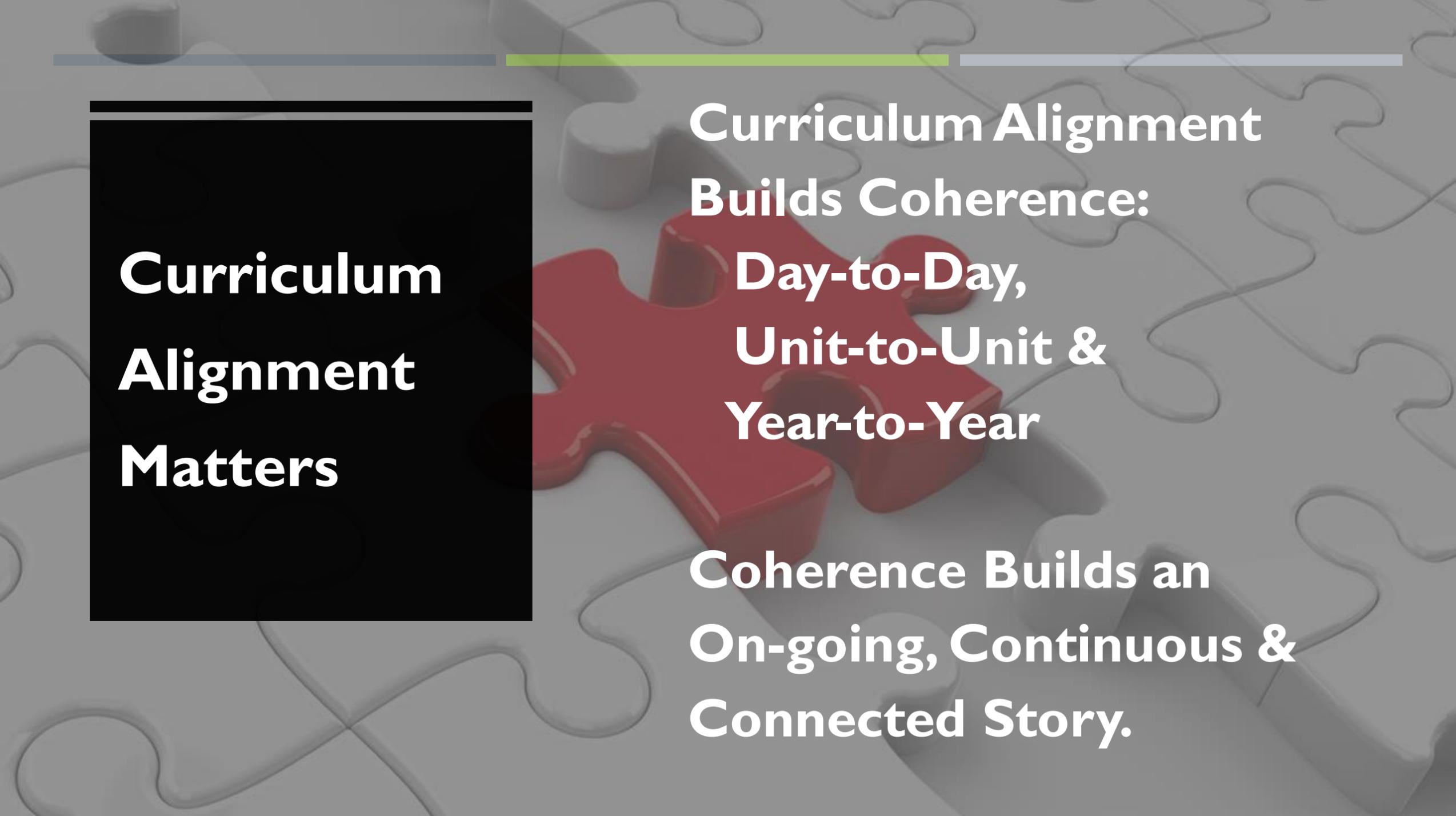
of new annual foundation school
program formula funding for school
systems to buy textbooks.



It's a whole new ball game, again.

Curriculum Alignment Matters!





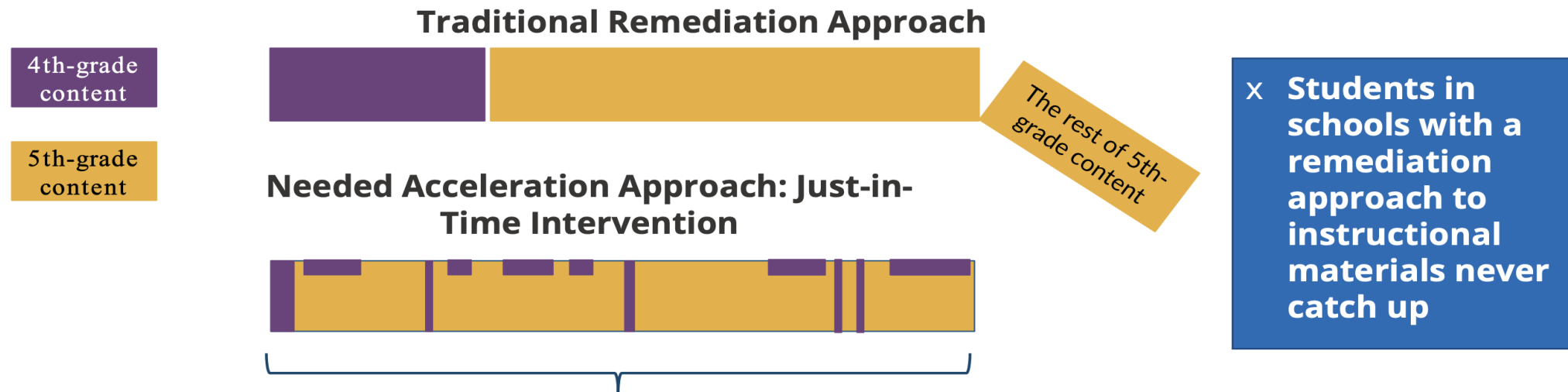
**Curriculum
Alignment
Matters**

**Curriculum Alignment
Builds Coherence:
Day-to-Day,
Unit-to-Unit &
Year-to-Year**

**Coherence Builds an
On-going, Continuous &
Connected Story.**

Instructional Materials must be changed to support acceleration


At a basic level, remediation (or reteaching) means reteaching content from previous units or grade levels that students previously failed to learn.



Two very different approaches to teaching lessons throughout the school year require very different operating practices and lead to two very different results for students



This is not out of left field.



HB 4545 & 1605
TEA: Strong Foundations Grants!

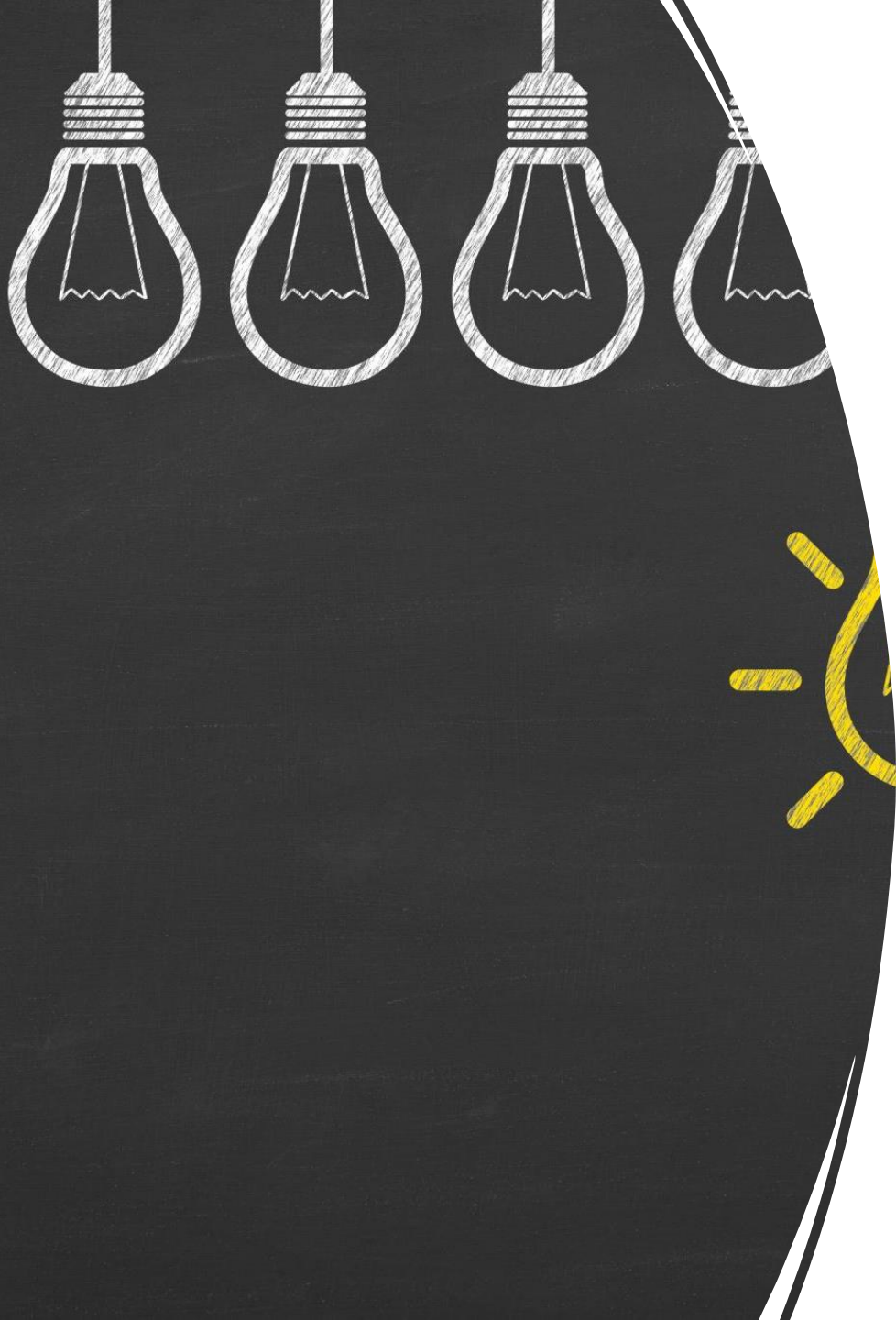
\$20M grant budget!



TEA Strong Foundations Grant Back Story...

The Strong Foundations Grant Program (Texas Education Code, 29.0881) was established through **House Bill 4545, 87th Texas Legislature, 2021**, and offers K–5 Math & Literacy comprehensive Tier 1 instructional supports, including curriculum, instructional leadership, and planning supports.

Local education agencies (LEAs) can apply for two types of Strong Foundations grants. The **Planning grant** helps LEAs adopt or prepare to use high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). The **Implementation grant** supports LEAs in effectively implementing HQIM.



Two Grants:

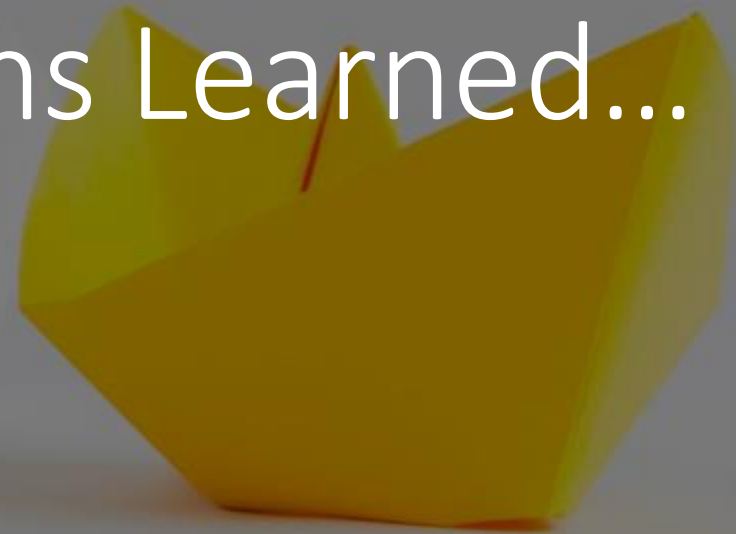
Strong Foundations Planning

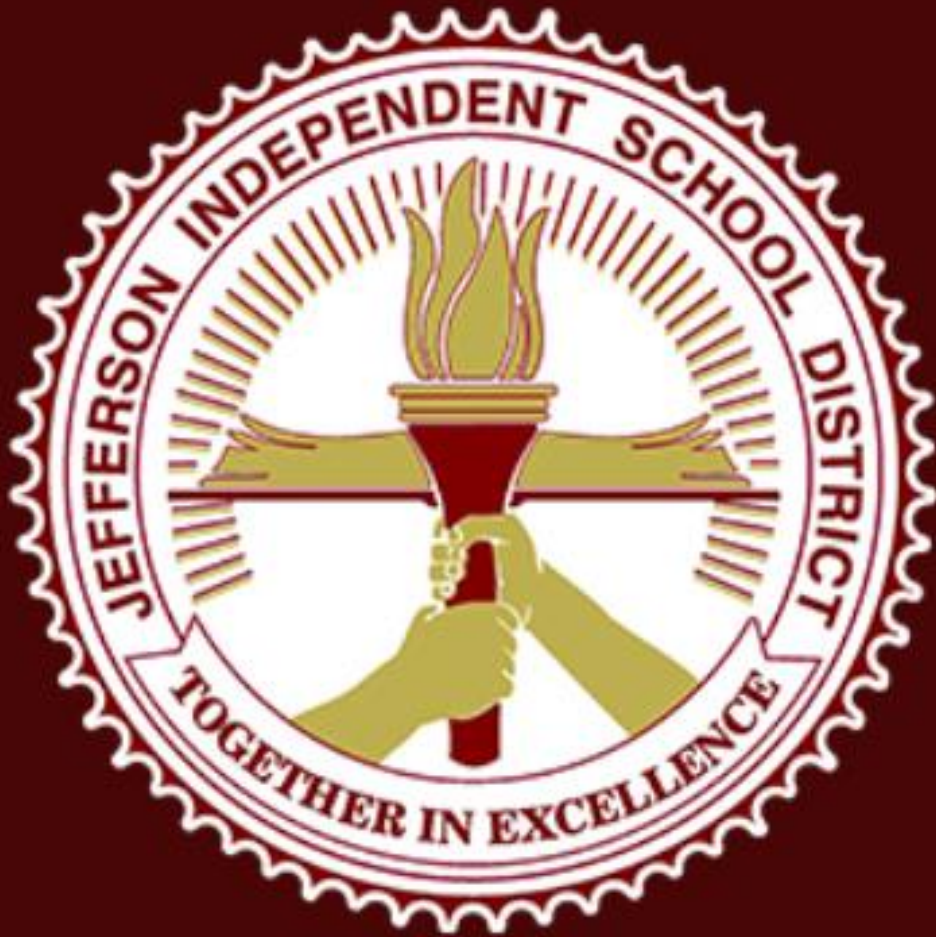
Provides LEAs support to develop a strong instructional framework in math or literacy, provides optional adoption supports in selecting new HQIM, if LEAs choose to make a materials switch, and training to support creating systems to effectively manage instruction at the district level.

Strong Foundations Implementation

Provides in-kind support for pre-implementation planning and content- and product-specific professional learning for teachers, coaches, and administrators on effectively implementing HQIM.

Strong Foundations Grant Process & Lessons Learned...





Lynn Phillips &
Dana Skinner



RICE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1302 SW McKinney St, Rice, TX 75155

Phone 903-326-4287 | Fax 903-326-4164

Bethany French &
Monnie Metcalfe

The SF PLANNING Grant Process...

- Applying is a breeze! (multiple choice google form, literally)
- TEA Deliverables drive the process and district people involved
- Vendor selection process (kinda hard, see next slide)
- Each district needs a PROJECT LEAD
 - TIME to devote to grant (roughly half day per week on average)
 - Two district committees and meeting times (schedule and hold sacred)
 - TEA training (Communities of Practice)
 - Staying on track with TEA deliverables - your vendor should help with this!
- Clarity is needed (see next slide!)



What the grant
SHOULD
be called:

**Strong Foundations Grant:
Writing an Instructional Framework!**

(It's not focused on the actual HQIM)



Lessons Learned...

Your district committee(s)

- You need a “Type A” person in district to steer the process
- Set Committee meetings up front and hold sacred
- Your committee also needs to be carefully selected
- Your committee should have different perspectives (an experienced Middle school math teacher now understands the importance of RLA across all content areas!)

Vendor selection was kinda stressful...

- Have a district selection committee/process to help you select a vendor - the committee needs a ***big picture district perspective AND*** understand the ***systems*** of your school district.
- Select a vendor that will meet the needs of your district – know how much structure you may need, or not (tight-loose), pacing, etc.
- Best Fit – as vendors all are held to the same standard
- **It’s helpful to have a vendor that knows the Texas landscape from the legislature...to the Texas ever changing accountability system.**





It's ok...

- To NOT know everything up front!
- The purpose of this grant is really about **improving classroom instruction**
- You need to know where you are (the State of the Union!)
- Be vulnerable...it's not easy!
- Be open to the process
- The work is to put systems in place so that teachers can focus on refining their craft
- The ultimate GOAL of the SF Grant: **Impact student learning**

Strong Foundations Grant Timeline:

The Grant application is OPEN NOW until December 7th



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Strong Foundations Planning



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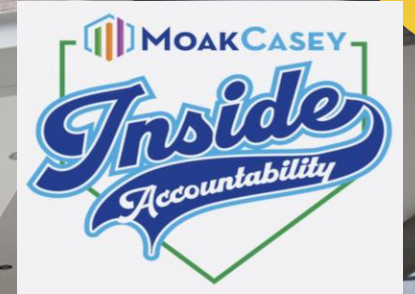
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**WE'RE HERE
TO BE A RESOURCE**



MOAKCASEY

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