

# Curriculum Reform in Texas

## A Call to Action



The majority of instructional materials used in classrooms do not meet grade-level TEKS standards. This **lack of access to appropriate curricular resources** inadequately prepares students, places a greater burden on **teachers** and creates barriers for **parents to review classroom content**. A **state-led curriculum supports public schools** across the state, empowering teachers and parents while closing the student achievement gap.

### The Problems

### The Solutions

1

#### Students Below Grade-Level

The majority of content being taught to Texas students - over 80% - is below grade level. As a result, students may earn A's and B's in class but still fall short when evaluated against grade-level (TEKS) standards.

#### Incentives for Grade-Level Content

Establish a rigorous curriculum vetting process that leads to more Texas school districts utilizing higher-quality, grade-level appropriate materials in the classroom.



2

#### Teacher Burnout

Many teachers are forced to effectively do two jobs: first, create the lessons, and then, teach them. This extra burden of curriculum development is contributing to teacher burnout.

#### Training & Support For Teachers

The state can and should do more to reduce teacher workloads by providing well-structured curricular resources so that teachers can focus on the most important part of their job: teaching.



3

#### Parents Access to Materials

Since lessons are often created without much lead time and are rarely available online, parents can't access the resources needed to help their child succeed at home and have little ability to see what students are learning.

#### Transparency for Parents

State policies should mandate a minimum transparency framework for all curricular resources, designed to allow parents to easily access all content for classes in which their students are currently enrolled.



## Support SB 2565 and HB 1605

To **maximize student performance**, **minimize low-quality content**, and **provide teachers with necessary relief**, the Legislature must pass **SB 2565 (Creighton)** and **HB 1605 (Buckley)** to improve the quality of classroom curricular resources.

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Texas has a unique set of rigorous education standards called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). However, a disconnect exists between instructional materials and the TEKS because State textbooks are only required to meet 50% of TEKS. A recent study showed that **only 17% of students were engaged with on grade level classwork.**

Providing high-quality instructional materials will improve student academic performance, while also improving teacher performance and workload.

The same study showed that students who received grade-level appropriate assignments **closed the achievement gap by 7 months.** A 2017 study found that middle school teachers adopting a higher quality curriculum moved that teacher from **the 50th to the 80th percentile of teaching performance.**

Texas should incentivize schools to adopt approved, grade-level curricula to improve education outcomes.

## ✓ Recommended by Texas Teacher Vacancy Task Force

"Funding, professional learning, and support for teachers to access and utilize High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)."

## ✓ Recommended in Governor Abbott's 2024-2025 Budget

"The 88th Legislature [should] address curriculum challenges with outcomes that enhance student performance...improve quality of classroom instructional materials, help ease teachers' workloads, and ensure curriculum transparency for parents."

**"We must reform curriculum, get kids back to the basics of learning, and we must empower parents. Parents deserve access to curriculum."**

Gov. Abbott  
2023 State of the State

## Our Partners



1. TNTP. (2018). The Opportunity Myth. Retrieved from: <https://opportunitymyth.tntp.org/>

2. EdReports.org. (2017). Why Materials Matter. Retrieved from: [http://storage.googleapis.com/edreports-206618.appspot.com/impact/wmm/download/EdReports\\_WhyMaterialsMatter\\_100119\\_LR.pdf](http://storage.googleapis.com/edreports-206618.appspot.com/impact/wmm/download/EdReports_WhyMaterialsMatter_100119_LR.pdf)