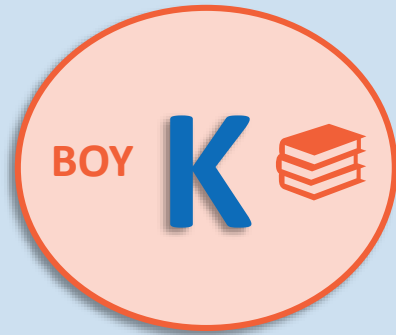




Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments

Changes to K–3 Assessments brought by HB 2

Amended TEC §28.006



HB2 amended §28.006 to exclusively focus on kindergarten reading readiness, narrowing its scope from multiple grade levels.

Established TEC §28.0063



HB2 established §28.0063, which set requirements relating to early literacy and numeracy instruments to support student outcomes.

Overarching Requirements for TEC, §28.0063

Agency Actions

Requires the commissioner to adopt a list of reading and mathematics instruments used to assess foundational literacy and numeracy skills in grades K-3

Requires the commissioner to ensure that instruments are comparable/align to other assessments part of the Texas Assessment System

Requires the agency to negotiate a price for all adopted instruments

School System Actions

Requires school systems to adopt and administer approved foundational literacy and numeracy instruments in K–3

Requires school systems to report results to the commissioner and to their local school board of trustees in a public meeting

Requires school systems to notify families of student results within a set timeframe following set criteria

Published Guidance

Information in the next few slides can be found on [official TEA correspondence](#) released on January 29, 2026.



To the Administrator Addressed

Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Mike Morath

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DATE:	January 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	HB 2 Implementation: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments and Extension of Current K-2 Reading Instruments
CATEGORY:	Assessment and Reporting
NEXT STEPS:	Share with appropriate school system and education service center (ESC) staff

House Bill (HB) 2, 89th Texas Legislature, established statewide requirements related to foundational literacy and numeracy instruments. The purpose of this correspondence is to provide implementation guidance for these requirements, notify school systems of extensions to existing commissioner-approved K-2 reading instruments, remind school systems of universal dyslexia screening requirements for the 2026-27 school year, and share information regarding the upcoming solicitation for new commissioner-approved instruments.

Implementation Guidance for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments in the 2026-27 School Year

Until the commissioner adopts the list of foundational literacy and numeracy instruments for kindergarten through grade 3 as required under [Texas Education Code \(TEC\), §28.0063](#), a school system may choose to comply with the requirements to administer these instruments by administering a foundational literacy and numeracy assessment instrument selected by the board of trustees of the school system, as stated in [TEC, §28.0063\(m\)](#), that meets statutory requirements listed under [TEC, §28.0063\(b\)](#). Therefore, school systems are encouraged but not required to administer board-selected literacy and numeracy instruments during the interim period (2026-27 school year). Note that the instruments under [TEC, §28.0063](#) are different from the kindergarten readiness assessments required under [TEC, §28.006](#). Administration of a beginning-of-year kindergarten reading readiness instrument using one of the two commissioner-approved kindergarten reading readiness instruments continues to be required.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments Under TEC, §28.0063 to be Implemented in the 2027-28 School Year

[TEC, §28.0063](#) requires the commissioner to adopt a list of reading and mathematics instruments to measure a student's foundational literacy skills in reading development and comprehension and foundational numeracy skills in mathematics. To meet all requirements of statute, this list is expected to be approved ahead of the 2027-28 school year.

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, school systems will be required to select and administer **only** instruments from the commissioner-approved list. All students in kindergarten through grade 3 must be assessed using commissioner-approved foundational literacy and numeracy instruments, in accordance with [TEC, §28.0063](#). These instruments will be required to be administered as follows:

- Kindergarten: Middle-of-year (MOY) and end-of-year (EOY)
- Grades 1-2: Beginning-of-year (BOY), MOY, and EOY
- Grade 3: BOY and MOY (For Grade 3, the EOY component will be administered through the state's summative academic achievement assessment—currently STAAR—which will transition to the

Student Success Tool, as required by HB 8, beginning in the 2027-28 school year.)

Note: BOY kindergarten assessment requirements are governed by TEC, §28.006, Kindergarten Reading Readiness. To meet this requirement, school systems must administer one of the commissioner-approved kindergarten reading readiness instruments. These instruments are provided at no cost.

Extension of Current Commissioner-Approved K-2 Reading Instruments

To ensure continuity and avoid disruption to school systems currently monitoring student reading performance in kindergarten through grade 2, as these were required under former statute prior to the passage of HB 2, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has extended the authorization period for commissioner-approved reading instruments through August 2027. **These tools will continue to be provided at no cost to school systems for the 2026-27 school year.**

- For kindergarten, Circle Kindergarten Progress Monitoring (formerly TX-KEA) by CLI and mCLASS Texas by Amplify will remain available as free, commissioner-approved kindergarten reading readiness instruments and must be used to fulfill [TEC, §28.006](#) requirements for the 2026-27 school year.
- For grades 1 and 2, TPRI/Tejas LEE and mCLASS Texas by Amplify will also remain available as free, commissioner-approved reading instruments. School systems may continue to select an alternate reading instrument for grades 1 and 2 through their district-level committee in accordance with TEA guidelines.

Please note: TPRI/Tejas LEE instruments are supported by multiple vendors, including CLI, Amira, and Tango Software; only the CLI version is offered at no cost.

Universal Dyslexia Screener for Kindergarten and Grade 1

[TEC, §38.003](#) requires universal screening for dyslexia in kindergarten and grade 1. These screeners must continue to be administered in the 2026-27 school year in accordance with [The Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders, 2024 Update](#).

Upcoming Solicitation for K-3 Instruments

TEA will initiate an application process to identify commissioner-approved kindergarten reading readiness instruments and commissioner-approved foundational literacy and numeracy instruments for kindergarten through grade 3. These instruments will:

- Assess foundational reading and mathematics skills; and
- Meet all statutory requirements under [TEC, §28.006\(b\)](#) or [§28.0063\(b\)](#).

Additional information, including timelines, criteria, and submission requirements, will be posted on the [Call for K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Instruments](#) webpage and published in the [Texas Register](#) in the upcoming weeks.



TE★AS ASSESSMENT

2026–27 School Year



Guidance for K–3 Assessments in the 2026–27 School Year

Kindergarten Reading Readiness

- Must continue to be administered no later than the 60th day to all kindergarten students using either:
 - Circle Kindergarten Progress Monitoring by CLI or
 - mCLASS Texas by Amplify

K–1 Universal Dyslexia Screening

- Must continue to be administered for all K–1 students in accordance with The Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders, 2024 Update

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments

- Commissioner’s K–3 instrument list not yet adopted
- Districts may use board-selected literacy/numeracy instruments in the interim; however, instruments that are used must meet statutory criteria under TEC, §28.0063(b)
- Use during 2026–27 is encouraged, not required.

Extension of Current K–2 Reading Instruments for the 2026–27 School Year

To ensure continuity and avoid disruption to school systems currently monitoring student reading performance in kindergarten through grade 2, as these were required under former statute prior to the passage of HB 2, TEA has extended the authorization period for commissioner-approved reading instruments through August 2027.

These tools will continue to be provided at no cost to school systems for the 2026–27 school year.

Kindergarten Readiness

Must be used to fulfill TEC, §28.006 requirements for the 2026–27 school year.



Grades 1–2



Early Reading Assessment



TPRI/Tejas LEE instruments are supported by multiple vendors, including CLI, Amira, and Tango Software; only the CLI version is offered at no cost.





TE★AS ASSESSMENT

2027–28 School Year



Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments to be Implemented in the 2027–28 School Year

Commissioner’s List Timeline
Approved list expected ahead of the 2027–28 school year.

- Requirements Starting 2027–28 SY**
- ☐ School systems must use **only** commissioner-approved instruments.
 - ☐ All K–3 students must be assessed using approved tools and families notified of results.
 - ☐ Subsequent student data will be submitted to TEA.

Required Administration Windows for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Instruments

	BOY	MOY	EOY
Kindergarten (K)	*	✓	✓
Grade 1	✓	✓	✓
Grade 2	✓	✓	✓
Grade 3	✓	✓	*

**K BOY is governed by TEC, §28.006 (Kindergarten Reading Readiness). For K BOY, school systems must administer a commissioner-approved kindergarten reading readiness instrument provided at no cost.*

**For grade 3, the EOY component will be administered through the state’s summative academic achievement assessment—currently STAAR—which will transition to the Student Success Tool, as required by HB 8, beginning in the 2027–28 school year.*

Administration and Data Submission At-a-Glance for K–3 Instruments

	BOY (Beginning-of-Year)	MOY (Middle-of-Year)	EOY (End-of-Year)
Kindergarten	Kindergarten Reading Readiness Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument
Grade 1	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument
Grade 2	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument
Grade 3	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	Foundational Literacy Instrument Foundational Numeracy Instrument	State Summative Academic Achievement Assessment <i>*collected through different platform</i>

Per statute, instruments used **must** be from the list of commissioner-approved instruments. **Usage of unapproved instruments will not be allowed.**

Assessment data collected after each wave to support reporting requirements and inform early literacy intervention supports



Questions?