



Overview of HB 2488

The State Board of Education (SBOE) has limited presence

- HB 2488 gives the SBOE limited oversight. The same rules do not apply to open-source textbooks as they do with traditional instructional materials.
- Texas is a state that strives to review their curriculum standards and have the very best instructional materials available in the classroom. Why should open-source textbooks be treated any differently?
- What organization will have the responsibilities for educating students and teachers on how to navigate the Internet-based open-source materials – safely, responsibly and productively?

We need a fair process

- We need a level playing field. Traditional publishers provide materials that are from expert authors and trusted sources – the material has been thoroughly vetted and is fully aligned with state standards.
- Open-source materials are piecemeal components. Materials are not aligned with rigorous state standards and criteria, and may not always be from a trusted source or based on real research.
- The peer review of open-source materials is not as extensive as with closed course materials. The “editorial” review of open-source materials is often shallow and limited. What safeguards will be established to address this identified concern about open-source materials?

Many school districts lack digital resources

- Open-source requires costly resources that not all schools have including computer equipment, adequate bandwidth, training for teachers and technology support staff
- All five million Texas schoolchildren do not have online access at their school or have limited access at home. Not all districts have the infrastructure to support open-source.
- How do we guarantee all children will have equal access to these materials, particularly those disadvantaged children in low-income school districts?

Free does not mean quality

- Our children’s instructional materials need to be based on research, standards alignment and an innovative product, not based on whether the content is “free” or not.
- There needs to be rigor, accuracy and review, along with a thorough, well thought-out process for open-source textbooks.