

Texas Education Agency
Division of Curriculum

READING FAQs

Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments

1. Where can I find the *2009-2010 Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments*?

The list of approved assessments/instruments and the cycle period may be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290>.

2. When is the new Commissioner's List available/posted each year?

The Commissioner's List is available in the summer prior to each school year and can be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290>.

3. May a district choose an assessment that is not on the Commissioner's List?

Yes. Districts may choose any assessment/instrument; however, the state will only reimburse districts for those assessments on the approved *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments*. Assessments/instruments not on the list must be purchased with district funds.

Changing Assessments/Instruments

4. May we change our choice of assessment(s)/instrument(s) in any school year?

Yes. Districts may change assessments/instruments at any time, but districts may only be reimbursed under the following conditions:

- a. The assessment/instrument is listed on the *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments* found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290>.
- b. Reimbursement does not exceed \$5 per student.
- c. A new reading assessment cycle begins. Please note: ALL assessments/instruments are currently on a four-year cycle; therefore, the state will only reimburse for a district's chosen assessment/instrument once every four years. Please refer to <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290> to determine the cycle for assessments/instruments. **Should your district choose to change assessments/instruments mid-cycle, the district is responsible for the expense of purchasing the new assessment/instrument.**

Third Grade Assessments/Instruments

5. Are teachers required to administer reading assessments/instruments to third-grade students?

No. Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.006 requires that districts and charter schools administer reading instruments to all students in kindergarten and grades one and two.

Please note: Districts may apply for and receive various federal and state funds that may have assessment requirements for third grade. Districts should follow guidelines for specific grants/initiatives. (The *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments* of approved and recommended third-grade options can be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290>.

6. We are considering an online subscription-based assessment. If we change to this assessment, will the state let us use our monies to offset the cost of the yearly subscriptions?

If the assessment/instrument is not on the *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments*, then no, the state will not be able to pay for the assessment/instrument. Also keep in mind the four-year cycle for assessments/instruments to determine if you are able to change assessments/instruments at the state's expense. The *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments* and the Assessment Cycle can be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6290>. Additionally, districts should remember that reimbursements are only available at the beginning of each new four-year cycle. A subscription that requires annual renewal can only be reimbursed at that time.

Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TRPI) and El inventario de lectura en Español de Tejas (Tejas LEE)

7. Where can I find more information about TPRI and/or Tejas LEE?

Visit www.trpi.org for all information regarding TPRI.

Visit www.tejaslee.org for all information regarding Tejas LEE.

8. How do I order TPRI or Tejas LEE?

To order TPRI or Tejas LEE, call 866-898-8774, or visit www.tpriandtjl.com.

9. Do we need to reorder annual consumables (grade specific student record sheets, class summary forms, etc.) each year?

No. If a district has previously ordered a kit, then annual consumables are automatically delivered to that district each August prior to the beginning of school.

10. Can the TPRI be used to determine if a student may be promoted?

The purpose of the TPRI is to assess students' reading abilities and provide teachers with information they can use to guide instruction. Therefore, it should **not** be used to make promotion or retention decisions.

11. Are private schools required to administer reading assessments/instruments?

The TEC does not apply to private schools. Private schools are not required to administer reading instruments but may do so at their own discretion.

12. Is a charter school required to administer reading assessments/instruments?

The TEC §28.006(c) states, "Each public school and charter school shall administer an early reading instrument at the kindergarten, first, and second grade levels."

13. We have opened a new campus in our district, but we understand that new TPRI/Tejas LEE kits may not be ordered until 2010. What do we do?

New TPRI/Tejas LEE kits may be ordered in **any** year for any one of three reasons:

- a. A new campus is opening and needs kits. (If, as a result of opening a new campus, other campuses have a reduction in student population, the extra kits should be moved to the new campus to reduce the number of new kits needed.)
- b. The student population has grown and additional kits are needed.
- c. A small percentage of the campus's kits have been damaged and need to be replaced.

14. We have the 2006-2008 TPRI. Do we need to purchase a new version for 2009-2010?

No. The 2006-2008 version has been extended to serve until the end of the 2010 school year. **A new version will be available for order in the summer of 2010.** Districts were notified of this change through a Correspondence to Districts posted on January 12, 2008, which can be accessed at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/stanprog011508.htm>.