

## House Appropriations Committee Hearing Set & School Library Standards!

Texline 300

Texas Library Association  
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**Texline 300, February 9, 2015**

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#### ***CALLS TO ACTION!! Overview***

Dear Librarians, Friends, Educators, and Advocates,

The next two weeks will be busy for policy making! And don't forget: **February 12 is VIRTUAL ACTION DAY!** What do *you* have planned?

#### **State Budgeting**

The state budgeting process is fully underway. Now it the most critical time to advocate for increases in library funding, as the respective budget committees are in the formative stage of making budget recommendations.

The Texas House Appropriations Committee (specifically its subgroup, the Article I Subcommittee) will conduct a hearing on Monday, February 16, and will begin consideration of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's budget.

#### **School Library Standards**

The State Board of Education's Committee on Instruction will meet on February 12, 2015 to discuss revising current school library standards. Representatives of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission will be present to discuss the standards and the need for revising them.

Please note that this discussion is only a starting point, and no vote will be taken. We are letting you know so that you can follow and support the process as it moves forward. News item, including messaging, [continues below](#).

**[TAKE ACTION NOW!](#)**

To find out **WHO REPRESENTS ME**, click on the button below. You can find your state senator, representative, and State Board of Education member.



For the most accurate data, include your full 9-digit zip code.

### **Senate Finance Hearing Recap**

Members of the Senate Finance Committee heard testimony on Feb. 4 on the State Library's budget.

A total of 14 people testified in support of the agency's budget request, and library supporters spoke passionately about library programs – shared digital content (i.e., TexShare and TexQuest) and workforce development training funds.

[Click here](#) to view the second part of the hearing. Scroll to the 1:30 marker for the agency portion of the hearing (it begins with a budget overview, then agency staff). Scroll to the 2:49:24 marker for public testimony.

Watch the great impact high school freshman Kyle Whipple had on the committee!

### **With THANKS!**

We thank the following individuals who testified for the State Library and Archives Commission at the Senate Finance Hearing on February 4!

Chris Custer, Sharon Gullett, Traci Jensen, Jim Johnson, Donna Kearley, Jennifer LaBoon, Leah Mann, Darrell Newsom, Danielle Plumer, Jeanne Standley, Robin Stout, Educator, Kyle Whipple, Jim Allison, Anne Keene, Communications

## About the Hearings

### **What: House Appropriations Article I Budget Hearing**

**Purpose:** Consider State Library's Budget Request

**When:** Monday, February 16

**Where:** Texas Capitol

**Time:** TBD

**Room:** EXT E1.032

**Agenda:** While the agenda is not yet posted, you can check the state website for updates. Click on [House Appropriation Article 1 Subcommittee](#).

### **What: State Board of Education, Committee on Instruction**

**Purpose:** Consider as a discussion item only the revision of the School Library Standards

**When:** Thursday, February 12

**Where:** [Texas Education Agency](#), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, 78701

**Time:** 9 am

**Room:** Room 1-104

**Agenda:** Click on [FULL AGENDA](#)

**Procedures** on giving public testimony at SBOE, Click on [REGISTRATION PROCEDURES](#).

We invite you to take part in this exciting democratic process. If you would like to travel to Austin to testify, contact [Gloria Meraz](#).

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### **Texas House Members**

The mailing address for all reps: Representative John Doe

Texas House of Representatives

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768-2910

### **Representatives on House Appropriations**

[Representative Trent Ashby](#); phone: 512-463-0508

[Representative Cecil Bell](#); phone: 512-463-0650

[Representative Greg Bonnen](#); phone: 512-463-0729

[Representative Cindy Burkett](#); phone: 512-463-0464

[Representative Giovanni Capriglione](#); phone: 512-463-0690

[Representative Sarah Davis](#); phone: 512-463-0389

[Representative Dawnna Dukes](#); phone: 512-463-0506

[Representative Helen Giddings](#); phone: 512-463-0953

[Representative Larry Gonzales](#); phone: 512-463-0670

[Representative Donna Howard](#); phone: 512-463-0631

[Representative Bryan Hughes](#); phone: 512-463-0271

[Representative Linda Koop](#); phone: 512-463-0454

[Representative Oscar Longoria](#); phone: 512-463-0645

[Representative Marisa Marquez](#); phone: 512-463-0638

[Representative Ruth Jones McClendon](#); phone: 512-463-0708

[Representative Borris Miles](#); phone: 512-463-0518

[Representative Rick Miller](#); phone: 512-463-0710  
[Representative Sergio Munoz](#); phone: 512-463-0704  
[Representative John Otto](#); phone: 512-463-0570 (Chair)  
[Representative Dade Phelan](#); phone: 512-463-0706  
[Representative Four Price](#); phone: 512-463-0470  
[Representative John Raney](#); phone: 512-463-0698  
[Representative Justin Rodriguez](#); phone: 512-463-0669  
[Representative J.D. Sheffield](#); phone: 512-463-0628  
[Representative Sylvester Turner](#); phone: 512-463-0554 (Vice-Chair)  
[Representative Gary VanDeaver](#); phone: 512-463-0576  
[Representative Armando Walle](#); phone: 512-463-0490

Everyone should contact: [Speaker Joe Straus](#)

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## **House Budget Hearing**

### **Action Needed: Deliver the Message!**

We need all library advocates to contact their representatives and urge them to support libraries! This action is especially critical if your House Representative serves on the Appropriations Committee (see the list at the left). If your representative does not serve on the Committee, we still need you to contact your representative and ask him/her to work with colleagues on the Committee to support libraries.

While both the Senate version (SB 2) and House version (HB 1) of the Appropriations Bill fund the State Library's base budget request, neither chamber approved funding for the agency's request for additional funds for programs, including the two key library programs mentioned below. Securing appropriations for these requests is our mission!

The Message: [Support the full budget and exceptional items requests of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission \(Article I/General Government\)](#). We ask you to support the educational and workforce infrastructure in your district by supporting the following key library-related initiatives.

**[Shared Digital Content](#)**: \$6.4 million to build digital educational collections. Through TexShare (for public and college library users) & TexQuest (for K-12 public schools), libraries support education and economic development through shared digital content.

This program leverages the purchasing power of the state and reaps enormous savings. A conservative Return on Investment (ROI) for this service shows that, for every \$1 spent, taxpayers gain \$8 of valuable resources.

**[Funds for Libraries in Support of Workforce and Economic Development](#)**: \$550,000 to train and help equip libraries of all types to support the Texas workforce. Libraries provide

a central path for meeting the state's priorities of establishing educational opportunities, creating a favorable environment for business, and increasing literacy.

Throughout the state, libraries and local Workforce Solutions offices are partnering to meet the demands for worker training programs. However, these efforts are only a fraction of the activity that could be undertaken. With additional training, the State Library can position many of the state's libraries to increase their programming and leverage resources and opportunities.

### **TAKE ACTION NOW!**

- A one-page handout on [TLA's Budget Priorities](#)
- A one-page handout on the funding request for [Shared Digital Content](#) (TexShare and TexQuest)
- A one-page on the funding request for [Workforce Development Training for Libraries](#)
- Click on [TLA's Advocate!](#) site for links to legislator look-up tools and other resources.
- See TLA's advocacy page for additional information on contacting legislators:  
<http://www.txla.org/advocacy-how-to>

Remember, if your representative does not serve on the House Appropriations Committee, you should **STILL CONTACT THEM** and ask them to work with their colleagues on the committee to ensure funding for library programs.

To find out who represents you and how to contact them, go to: [Who Represents Me?](#)

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### **More on Contacting Elected Officials**

1) If you are calling the office:

- Ask to speak to the staff person working on Appropriations.
- When you get that person, introduce yourself, tell them you are a constituent, and tell them you are calling to ask for the legislator's support of library funding.
- Mention that the State Library's hearing is set for Monday, Feb. 16, and you want to speak to them on a couple of library requests: 1) Shared Digital Content (TexShare and TexQuest) and 2) funding for library workforce training.
- You can use the talking points provided here as you cover these issues briefly with the staffer.
- Ask if s/he has any questions and thank them. It's that easy!

2) To learn more about contacting legislative offices: [read the TLA Advocacy Primer](#).

## CALL TO ACTION: School Library Standards

The State Board of Education's (SBOE's) Committee on Instruction will meet on February 12, 2015 to discuss revising current school library standards. Representatives of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission will be present to discuss the standards and the need for revising them.

Library supporters are encouraged to contact their SBOE member to express support for updating the standards. This discussion is the first step in a hoped-for process for revising these guidelines. This agenda item is only a discussion item – no vote will be taken. However, it is a needed precursor to establishing a taskforce and process.

Click on [FULL AGENDA](#) for additional details on the meeting. Below is the description of the item.

### 5. [Discussion of School Library Standards](#) (Click on link for background materials)

This item provides an opportunity for the committee to discuss the upcoming review and revision of the *School Library Programs: Standards and Guidelines for Texas* in collaboration with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). Statutory authority is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §33.021.

**The Message to Your SBOE Member:** The School Library Standards were last revised several years ago, and Texas students, teachers, education stakeholders, and librarians will benefit from updated standards reflective of quality school library programs today.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue and for undertaking the process of updating the School Library Standards with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

### SBOE Members

The general email address for SBOE issues is: <mailto:sboesupport@tea.texas.gov>

**District 1:** Martha M. Dominguez (El Paso)

**District 2:** Ruben Cortez, Jr. (Brownsville)

**District 3:** Marisa B. Perez (San Antonio)

**District 4:** Lawrence A. Allen, Jr. (Fresno)

**District 5:** Ken Mercer (San Antonio)

**District 6:** Donna Bahorich (Houston)

**District 7:** David Bradley (Beaumont)

**District 8:** Barbara Cargill, Chair (The Woodlands)

**District 9:** Thomas Ratliff, Vice Chair (Mount Pleasant)

**District 10:** Tom Maynard (Florence)

**District 11:** Patricia Hardy (Fort Worth)

**District 12:** Geraldine Miller (Dallas)

**District 13:** Erika Beltran (Dallas)

**District 14:** Sue Melton-Malone (Waco)

**District 15:** Marty Rowley (Amarillo)

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## **Taking the Capitol by Storm: Libraries, Legislation, and Leadership (Ticketed)**

9 am - 5pm, Tuesday, April 14

With the 84th Legislature in full swing, join colleagues and experts as you study key library issues and become an articulate and knowledgeable advocate with decision-makers. The first half of the preconference is an intensive training and skill-building workshop.

The second half is an afternoon of actual visits with legislative offices coordinated through TLA. Participants will earn a badge of honor to wear throughout conference. Lunch will be provided.

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### **School Librarian Certification**

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) will meet on March 6, 2015 in Austin. One of the items up for discussion is the certification of school librarians. SBEC members will review the various components of the certification requirements, including the critical element of two years of teaching experience.

TLA's Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL) has been hard at work drafting information for SBEC members. Additionally, TLA worked with SBEC in providing information and support as SBEC gathered school library representatives to discuss the criteria and make recommendations. A taskforce met in November and offered key points for consideration. The TASL and TLA position was conveyed to SBEC in a letter submitted by TASL leaders. See: [School Librarians are Teachers](#).

Agenda information for the March 6 meeting will be available at [the SBEC website](#) along with information on contacting members of the Board.



### **February 12, 2015 is VIRTUAL ACTION DAY!**

**Speak out for libraries!** Make Library Virtual Action Day your own. Be as creative as you want! The important thing is to deliver the message: **SUPPORT THE FUNDING REQUESTS FOR STATEWIDE LIBRARY PROGRAMS!** Take the time to contact your state senator and representative on this day. They must hear from you! Tell them about the incredible services your library provides.

Recruit friends to join the effort! Make a commitment to get others involved. Organize a letter-writing campaign, tweet-up, and other virtual campaigns and activities to get people talking about libraries. Have supporters create videos and send links to them to your elected officials. It is particularly important to have administrators, city or county officials, and parents contact elected officials on behalf of libraries and library users.

Please be sure to let TLA know of your activities by posting on our social media platforms. Help us help libraries statewide!

***Thank you for your support and passion for libraries.  
Texas libraries need your voice!***

***We also offer our thanks to Gale Cengage Learning, EBSCO Information Services, and LearningExpress, LLC. for their support of library advocacy.***

***Texline*** is produced by the Texas Library Association. It is published as needed to provide information on state and other policy matters related to libraries. For additional information, send an email to Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications, [gloriam@txla.org](mailto:gloriam@txla.org).



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