



FAQ release January 22, 2021

Integrated Prekindergarten Full Set for Lone Star Open Education Resources

Parts I and II

Q1: This means that our adopted PreK product will not be for sale anymore in Texas?

- A. The Open Education Resources (OER) initiative will not impact the state adoption policies or processes of other instructional materials or curricular products in Texas. The OER Initiative will not impact the availability of any adopted product in Texas or products in the Texas Home Learning suite of resources. The OER initiative is intended to help provide districts, schools, and teachers with additional choices of high-quality curricular materials. Adoption of OER instructional materials is completely optional for districts and schools.

Q2: Is this RFP looking for perpetual license of our digital content to TEA? Including editing or changes from Version 1 to Version 2?

- A. Versions 1 and 2 must meet OER licensing requirements as outlined in the solicitation. It is possible that some “supplemental” elements, including supplementary digital content and/or licensed texts, will not meet OER licensing requirements.

Q3: Once the changes will be done and deliver to TEA, is the source code part of the deliveries or not?

- A. Delivery of source code would depend on the product and would need to be discussed with the vendor.

Q4: Can you please provide clarification around the contract term listed in the RFP? We were under the impression that the contract term would be much longer. *The terms and conditions of this RFP and the subsequent contract for services are for the period beginning on February 2021 and ending August 31, 2022. Upon successful completion of the requirements of this RFP, including but not limited to, contract requirements, project quality and availability of funding, this contract may be renewed on an annual basis, for up to an additional three (3) years.*

- A. The contract term includes materials development, review, revision, and publication for at least two Versions of materials. ESC Region 13 and the TEA expect this work to be completed over the course of 2021-2022 with the opportunity to renew on an annual basis for up to an additional three years. The materials developed, however, must be reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that allows for free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with others, either in perpetuity or for a term of use acceptable to the commissioner to ensure the useful life of the material (TEC 37.0711).

Q5: The link to TRR rubrics (http://texasresourcereview.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/TRR%20Prekindergarten%20Systems%20Rubric%20_0.pdf) on page 5 of the RFP gives a page



not found message when you click on it. Can you confirm if the following links found on the TRR page are the rubrics we should be responding to?

- A. The Prekindergarten Systems Rubric (published November 2019) and Spanish Prekindergarten Systems Rubric (published July 2020) can be found on the Texas Resource Review site here: <http://texasresourcereview.org/about-trr/rubric-development>

Q6: If we are selected, will Region 13 be responsible for purchasing materials that they would then make available to the Fort Worth area at no cost or will TEA be purchasing materials for the state overall?

- A. Per TEC § 31.0711, open education resources must be licensed in a way that permits the free use and repurposing of the material by any person or entity. ESC Region 13 and TEA will, specifically, seek to make the open education resources available through an OER repository or LMS platform to any Texas district or school that wishes to implement them. In some scenarios, implementing districts may need to purchase additional, non OER, resources such as licensed texts or manipulatives. The OER initiative is intended to help provide districts, schools, and teachers with additional choices of high-quality curricular materials. Adoption of OER instructional materials is completely optional for districts and schools.

Q7: During the submission of our FRED proposal to TEA in 2020 we asked for confirmation that a 10-year license would meet the term of use acceptable to the commissioner to ensure the useful life of the material (TEC 37.0711(3)). Our FRED contact at TEA confirmed that a 10-year license would meet their useful life of materials terms. Can you confirm whether or not a 10-year license would also meet the non-negotiable criteria *“The owner/publisher/copyright holder has granted permission to use submitted materials in a way that meets the requirements of a state developed OER material outlined above”* for the Integrated Prekindergarten Full Set for Lone Star Open Education Resources RFP?

- A. Yes, we will consider a 10-year license, but ESC Region 13 and the TEA have a strong preference for materials without term limits and will prioritize vendors who propose those deal terms.

Q8: What is the anticipated size of the initial pilot for Fall 2021? How many classrooms are expected to be part of the pilot? Is there a minimum and/or a maximum that could be included in the pilot?

- A. ESC Region 13 and TEA are not able to estimate the Fall 2021 pilot size at this time. There are not any minimum or maximum participation thresholds at this time. However, access to open education resources and implementation supports will extend beyond the scope and duration of the pilot. The pilot is intended to provide classroom feedback on the instructional materials, as well as promote broader adoption of these high-quality instructional materials in Texas. Therefore, the use of the OER instructional materials procured through this solicitation will extend beyond the pilot group, and TEA will develop and implement a strategy to recommend the OER option statewide. Adoption of OER instructional materials is completely optional for districts and schools.



Q9: How are pilot participants identified and secured, will there be geographic concentrations? Is the vendor expected to play a role in this, and if so, what are the expectations?

- A. The TEA will solicit and review pilot applications from any district in Texas wishing to participate. The vendor will not be responsible for recruiting pilot districts but may be asked to supply sample materials or participate in webinars introducing the materials to interested parties. The pilot is intended to provide classroom feedback on the instructional materials, as well as promote broader adoption of these high-quality instructional materials in Texas. Therefore, the use of the OER instructional materials procured through this solicitation will extend beyond the pilot group, and TEA will develop and implement a strategy to recommend the OER option statewide. Adoption of OER instructional materials is completely optional for districts and schools.

Q10: Will information on each pilot participant be provided to vendors? For example, will the vendor have access to child level demographic information, the experience level of teachers, previous PK performance (if applicable)?

- A. Vendors will not have access to any Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protected student information. Upon selection, ESC Region 13 and TEA can discuss what district and school pilot data (e.g., enrollment demographics, teacher experience level, school prekindergarten performance) will be shared with the selected vendor.

Q11: Will vendors be allowed or expected to enter into separate, complementary contractual relationships with pilot participants for additional products and services to support their pilot implementation?

- A. Districts and schools will continue to have the same opportunities to engage with instructional materials and professional learning vendors, including the vendor(s) selected through this solicitation. Vendors are permitted to enter into separate, complementary contractual relationships for additional products or services with pilot participants and/or any other district choosing to adopt these high-quality instructional materials.

Q12: Beyond vendors providing LMS integration functionality and related criteria, as explained in 1.10.08 Section IV TECHNOLOGY, is the vendor expected to provide technical support to pilot participants related to their LMS integration? What are the roles of the vendor vs. that of TEA as related to supporting LMS integration with the pilot participants?

- A. Vendors are not required to provide technical support to individual pilot participants related to their LMS integration. However, ESC Region 13 and TEA seek to develop training materials supporting technical implementation of OER products. ESC Region 13 and TEA may prioritize vendors offering some degree of technical support services for districts.

Q13: In Section 1.01 Adoption and Implementation supports, it states, “The vendor may also be asked to assist in designing and delivering additional implementation supports customized for Texas.” Under what circumstances and at what point in the project does TEA anticipate that this might be necessary? What additional implementation supports have other vendors offered?



- A. Implementation supports may be delivered in tandem with the publication of Version 1 materials over the course of the 2021-2022 school year. Examples of additional implementation supports include but are not limited to unit and lesson internalization guides/protocols, classroom observation tools for coaches, additional asynchronous professional learning opportunities for teachers and coaches.

Q14: What role or responsibilities does the vendor have, if any, beyond supporting designing and delivering the webinar series described in 1.01 Adoption and Implementation Support? Does TEA expect to manage logistics such as promoting the training to participants, participant sign-ups, use of the webinar platform, and related logistics for hosting the webinars? Is it expected that the webinar(s) will be recorded and if so, is that done and hosted by TEA or the vendor? Is it anticipated that the webinars would be held multiple times? Does TEA provide ongoing support to pilot participants, or is that the role of the vendor? Will the vendor have access to participant webinar evaluations?

- A. The ESC Region 13 and TEA will develop and disseminate communications about the implementation training series. Vendors will be encouraged to use their networks to promote availability of these trainings. The management of webinar logistics can be determined upon the selection of a vendor. ESC Region 13 and TEA may record and host the recordings of these webinars or request that vendors support in this work. The number of synchronous webinars held is dependent upon pilot needs and will be determined at a later date. ESC Region 13 and TEA will provide ongoing support to pilot participants. If webinar evaluations are implemented, it is likely that the vendor will have access to responses.

Q15: What is the vendor's expected role in providing ongoing non-technical support to pilot participants related to curriculum implementation? Will that be managed by TEA or is the vendor expected to provide capacity for that?

- A. The level of non-technical, curriculum implementation support that vendors may be asked to provide to pilot participants will be determined during negotiations.

Q16: What are the ESC's role (if any) in this project?

- A. The role of Education Service Centers is still in development.

Q17: Regarding section 1.08.03 Payment, does the vendor determine the payment amounts for each unit? Per 1.10.07, should the line item budget include pricing by thematic curriculum unit to facilitate this payment structure?

- A. Unit payments amounts will be negotiated with the selected vendors. It would be helpful for the line item budget to include pricing by Unit.

Q18: Can TEA provide more information regarding the "contract negotiation" phase mentioned throughout the RFP, including examples of what would be negotiated during that phase and the expected timeline?

- A. ESC Region 13 and TEA expect to negotiate the pricing, delivery timeline, and product details during this 3-6 week phase.



Q19: Can TEA provide more information on the material reviewers, who they are, and how they are selected? Specifically, are reviewers third party educators (similar to the resource review), TEA team members, or a combination?

- A. Reviews will be conducted by a combination of select TEA team members, third party educators/organizations, and Texas teachers and educators, all offering expertise in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (TPG). ESC Region 13 will identify the third-party review group through a competitive solicitation.

Q20: Will TEA be supporting further roll-out and adoption once the pilot concludes? If so, can TEA describe the expected role that the agency would play after the pilot vs the vendor's expected role? Is there an opportunity for the collection of on-going feedback? Is there an expectation or opportunity for the vendor to connect directly with implementation partners to collect feedback?

- A. TEA will support implementation, collection of ongoing feedback, and continuous improvement of the materials after the pilot, beyond the contract term related to this solicitation. The instructional materials vendor may play a consultative role, as needed, for the contract term. If "implementation partners" means pilot districts and schools, ESC Region 13 and TEA are happy to discuss the anticipated relationship between the materials vendor and the pilot districts and schools, as it relates to soliciting feedback on the materials, upon selection.

Q21: If we send a file to rfp@esc13.txed.net that not exceed 30 Mb in size but, dos this could include a URL and credentials to navigate our Online PreK Curriculum? Or do we need to give access to the individual +1,100 files which are inside in our platform.

- A. Vendors may submit a URL and credentials to access a full set or sample of materials.

Q22: Are you looking only for Math and Language in English and Spanish or all domains digital resources for PreK?

- A. To be in alignment with the Texas Resource Review Prekindergarten Systems Rubric, an Integrated Prekindergarten program must cover all domains.

Q23: If you choose our digital content, how do you expect the delivery of all the digital content to be part of a repository of media pieces or to have integrated into your own platform. If this is the case, do you accept to integrate the media pieces using links or do you need the media pieces delivery into your repository for the 6 months initial term?

- A. The delivery and publication of digital assets can be determined during negotiations, as it depends on the product specifications. Ultimately, the TEA is actively planning to develop a repository to host open education resources, but the platform has yet to be selected and we are unable to share a development timeline at this time.

Q24: When saying "Materials procured through this solicitation may also be included in the Texas Home Learning suite of instructional materials", are your asking us to deliver them or you are going to add to that repository?



- A. TexasHomeLearning.org may link to the platform in which these instructional materials are hosted. Communications and trainings related to the instructional materials procured through this solicitation will likely be disseminated through the Texas Home Learning website.

Q25: If our content is already provided ONLINE through NEOLMS platform, are you looking to have the media pieces to provide through your own LMS or do you expect from us providing that platform because we need to considerate in the price since NEOLMS is owned by a third-party. Publish Version 1 materials after TEA approval, either on a Vendor-managed platform branded for the TEA or a TEA-managed or identified platform on a rolling basis throughout 2021-2022. Let us know what you expect to be clear for us how to consider the Platform pricing or without that component.... we have the copyright of the media pieces not for the NEOLMS platform.

- A. In this situation, NEOLMS would either need to offer free access to the OER materials or the OER materials would need to be provided through a separate platform.

Q26: About property license that allows for free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with others, does this mean limited to Texas? We understand that we'll do your requested modifications until the version 2 is approved? Are you asking for Source files or only the approved final executable files?

- A. ESC Region 13 and TEA seek to make these instructional materials available to any person or entity in Texas but would be unable to regulate the use of these materials outside of Texas. Yes, Version 2 would be the minimum expectation for vendors to commit to making revisions to instructional materials, but ESC Region 13 and TEA seek to continuously improve OER instructional materials in the long term. The source files would be delivered to ESC Region 13, TEA, and a third-party review group (to be identified). The final executable files (Versions 1 and 2) will be considered open education resources.

Q27: How do we measure the estimated users around Texas? Do 240,000 students is a good estimated quantity for PreK students?

- A. According to the Division of Research and Analysis in the Office of Governance and Accountability of the TEA, there were approximately 250,000 enrolled prekindergarten students in Texas Public Schools in the 2019-2020 school year. Please note that adopting OER materials is completely optional for districts and schools.

Q28: The owner/publisher/copyright holder has granted permission to use submitted materials in a way that license that: ... (2) permits the free use and repurposing of the material by any person or entity (Does this includes TEXAS or US Country persons or entities? and (3) is for a term of use acceptable to the commissioner to ensure the useful life of the material. Does this mean a maximum license until 2025? How do other users will be aware of that termination of the free license in 2025?

- A. ESC Region 13 and TEA seek to make these instructional materials available to any person or entity in Texas but would be unable to regulate the use of these materials outside of Texas. All OER contracts executed to-date have been perpetual OER licenses. ESC Region 13 and



the TEA have a strong preference for materials without term limits and will prioritize vendors who propose those deal terms.

Q29: How do we suppose submit our economical proposal, for three stages: Version 1 – 6 months license, Version 2- 1 year license, and additional 3-year license extended?

- A. All OER contracts executed to-date have been perpetual OER licenses. ESC Region 13 and the TEA have a strong preference for materials without term limits. Four to five years would unlikely meet the expectation for “a term of use acceptable to the commissioner to ensure the useful life of the material” (TEC 37.0711(3)).

Q30: When do we expect the payment, after delivery the Version 1 will be approved, or after version 2?

- A. Please refer to Section 1.08.04 Payment. Partial payment for each Unit or Module will be made upon the Vendor delivering TPG-aligned materials to the third-party review vendor. Payment-in-full for content is contingent upon the Vendor completing all edits to materials required to meet all publication criteria in a predetermined review rubric. Payment for additional services rendered and products delivered, including Version 2 production and design of content-aligned professional development, will be made upon TEA approval of each unit or deliverable.

Q31: How many hours do you estimate from our side instructional materials design and deliver those webinars, in partnership with TEA, are you talking about recording training to deliver on asynchronous virtual format?

- A. We are unable to estimate the hours required to support the design and delivery of those webinars. Please visit <https://texashomelearning.org/library> for examples of the scope and scale of implementation training delivered through Texas Home Learning. The scope and scale of the implementation trainings may be similar. ESC Region 13 and TEA may record trainings for asynchronous training delivery. Previously, vendors have proposed a fee per webinar, for webinars that are primarily designed and delivered by the vendor.

Q32: Which are the most used LMS in Texas Districts? Are you asking us to provide our digital content though our own LMS integrated to them? How many hours do you expect from our support team to do that integration, is it one or multiple integrations?

- A. The most commonly used LMSs, aside from the statewide LMS, are currently Canvas and Google Classroom. The Vendor will develop *exemplar models* (perhaps a single or partial unit/module) of product ingestion and integration into these 2-3 other most commonly used Learning Management Systems in Texas and showcase the product functionality in these additional LMS. How the content is housed on the vendor side is up to that vendor. It might be contained within an LMS or housed through a website. Development time varies and is dependent upon many factors including experience designing LMS integrations. Vendors may develop one LTI or Thin CC integration for the state LMS or they may develop multiple integrations if more than one type of content is being created. For example, if the vendor creates a set of instructional materials and also develops a platform where students or



families log in to do self-paced activities, that could be cause for two LTI integrations: one for accessing/assigning the instructional materials and one to connect with the vendor's interactive digital platform. Vendors might also only develop traditional materials that are housed on a website. In that case, only one LTI/Thin CC integration is required to be developed.

Q33: May you explain what this means: *Quality of Management Approach (30 points) Impact on the ability of the district to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses.*

- A. The Quality of Management Approach is language derived from Texas Education Code Chapter 44.031(b). Districts and ESC Region 13 report payments to any vendor identified as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) vendor. All ESC Region 13 solicitations include TEC Chapter 44.031(b) language. A portion of the ESC Region 13 evaluation may take into consideration a vendor's identification as a HUB however, a HUB identification does not determine whether or not a vendor will be awarded a contract. Additionally, ESC Region 13 has discretion on the points awarded for all sections of TEC Chapter 44.031(b).

Q34: Please define or give examples on this in our case we are going to provide limited, nonexclusive license for the period you need with the required conditions: *Ensure detailed line item budget is included. Please give us an extended list for what are your expectations on this.*

- A. Section 1.09.01 Overview of Services would be a useful basis for budgets.

Q35: If our product is approved by TEA in the Proc 2021, do we need describe all the Proposal Narrative bullets?

- A. Yes, ESC Region 13 asks that proposers respond to this section as completely as possible.

Q36: What are the implementation materials specifically, "program guide" and "lesson internalization guide," or is that left up to the vendor?

- A. The program guide references any guiding document or documents that communicate the instructional approach taken by the publisher including but not limited to pedagogical approach and formative and summative assessment strategy. A lesson internalization guide should recommend a process for preparing to teach a unit or lesson. Interested vendors should propose what implementation resources they recommend pairing with the curricular materials and technical ecosystem. At a minimum, they need to meet the requirements set forth in Section II. FULL SET OF CURRICULAR MATERIALS within 1.10.08 Guidelines and Criteria. Ultimately, implementation materials will be developed and revised in partnership ESC Region 13 and the TEA. Additional implementation supports have included unit and lesson internalization guides/protocols, family and caregiver letters, classroom observation tools for coaches, additional professional learning opportunities for teachers and coaches, to name a few.

Q37: What is the extent of the LMS work? Are we responsible for building the courses in the LMS or just delivering the content? "Integrate all materials developed into Schoology, and develop exemplar models of instructional materials ingestion and integration into 1-2 additional, widely used LMS."



- A. The vendor will develop an LTI or Thin Common Cartridge integration with the Statewide Learning Management System. Vendors may develop one LTI or Thin CC integration for the state LMS or they may develop multiple integrations if more than one type of content is being created. For example, if the vendor creates a set of instructional materials (lesson plans, student workbooks) and also develops a platform where students or families log in to do self-paced activities, that could be cause for two LTI integrations: one for accessing/assigning the instructional materials and one to connect with the vendor's interactive digital platform. In addition, the Vendor will develop exemplar models of product ingestion and integration (perhaps a single or partial unit/module) into the 1-3 other most used Learning Management Systems in Texas (currently Canvas and Google Classroom) and showcase the product functionality in these additional LMS.

Q38: Are Versions 1 and 2 two different uploads into different platforms? Will we need to host version 1?

- A. Version 1 of each module/unit will be uploaded to facilitate a SY 2021-2022 implementation, and Version 2 (which will incorporate classroom feedback) will be uploaded sometime after, and it is likely, but uncertain, these will be in the same platform (Version 2 materials will effectively replace Version 1 materials). It is not required that vendors propose to host the materials, but it is preferred (at least for Version 1). Ultimately, OER will develop a repository to host the materials in-house. This may or may not happen prior to Version 2 release.

How the content is housed on the vendor side is up to the vendor but subject to approval by ESC Region 13 and TEA (to ensure accessibility and ease of use for end users). Version 1 and Version 2 content might be contained within an LMS or housed through a website.

Q39: Is there flexibility on the timeline for rollout of the pilot units?

- A. Partially. The interim dates can be negotiated, but we will prioritize proposals that enable the release Version 1 on a rolling basis for an SY21-22 implementation. We will seek to maximize the time available for districts and schools to internalize content before expected use date.

Q40: Will districts need to purchase print materials and professional learning independently? Is this a separate opportunity for selected vendors?

- A. Yes, districts will need to purchase print materials independently. Districts may independently purchase any professional learning not provided through ESC Region 13 and/or the TEA. Yes, this could be an additional opportunity for selected vendors, however, ESC Region 13 and the TEA would like to partner with vendors to lead an initial set of product-specific implementation trainings at no cost to districts. Please see TexasHomeLearning.org for example implementation series.

Q41: Does Region 13/TEA require the vendor to host the content in perpetuity?

- A. No. Vendors are not required to host the content in perpetuity. Depending on the digital and interactive tools accompanying or embedded in the material, ESC Region 13 and TEA



may negotiate a hosting period with the vendor (and associated costs). ESC Region 13 and TEA plan to ultimately develop a platform to host OER instructional materials.

Q42: How does this new content interplay with the content being developed as part of THL?

- A. TexasHomeLearning.org will offer access to the instructional materials procured through this solicitation. Communications and trainings related to the instructional materials procured through this solicitation will likely be disseminated through the Texas Home Learning website, as well. At the middle and high school levels, Texas Home Learning's math instructional materials will be available at no cost to districts until August 2023 (see the Product Fact Sheets at <https://texashomelearning.org/product-fact-sheet>). The OER mathematics instructional materials will most likely be available for free in perpetuity. Districts and schools will continue to have the option of implementing any or none of the Texas Home Learning and OER products.

Q43: In what format do you require the content?

- A. **For Reviews:** Instructional materials vendors will share digital, editable content (e.g., Word Documents or unlocked PDFs or InDesign Files) with the third-party review group via a Content Management System (likely of the materials vendors' choice).

For District and School Use: Generally, materials must be available both digitally (in editable format) and in print to districts and schools who choose to implement the resources. Digital materials must be WCAG 2.0 compliant. All content must be 508 compliant. Vendors must also support the successful integration of the materials into the Statewide Learning Management System via an LTI or Thin Common Cartridge integration. Please refer to Section 1.10.08 Guidelines and Criteria of the solicitation for additional requirements (see the Delivery Methods and Technology subsections).