

## Kindergarten

TEC, §28.006(b) requires the commissioner to adopt a multidimensional assessment tool that includes a reading instrument and tests at least three developmental skills, including literacy, for use in diagnosing the reading development and comprehension of kindergarten students.

The commissioner has adopted **TX-KEA (CLI)**.

TEC, §28.006(b-1) permits the commissioner to approve an alternative reading instrument for use in diagnosing the reading development and comprehension of kindergarten students.

The commissioner has approved **mCLASS Texas Edition (Amplify)** as the alternative reading instrument.

Information regarding training opportunities for these instruments will be made available soon.

LEAs are required to use one of these two reading diagnostic instruments for the beginning-of-year screener, starting in the 2020-2021 school year. However, because of disruptions to the 2019-2020 school year and possible disruptions to the 2020-2021 school year resulting from COVID-19, districts may request a waiver in order to continue to use the instrument they used in the 2019-2020 school year or another instrument approved by a local district board of trustees in order to best meet student needs in the 2020-2021 school year only.

A waiver of the requirement to use one of the two specified instruments will only be approved for **one year** and will not be waived in the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

Even with potential disruptions screening to monitor reading development and comprehension of students is critical in supporting their growth and academic success.

New  
6/4/2020

For more detailed information about the two approved kindergarten instruments please visit <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/early-childhood-data-collection-requirements>

## Grades 1 and 2

TEC, §28.006(b-1) requires each school district to administer, at the first and second grade levels, a reading instrument on the list adopted by the commissioner or by a district-level committee.

Free options that are available for the 2020-2021 school year include:

- **mCLASS Texas Edition** (Amplify)
- **Fastbridge earlyReading** (Illuminate Education)
- **CBMreading** (Illuminate Education)
- **TPRI/Tejas Lee**

## Grade 7

TEC, §28.006(c-1) requires each school district to administer at the beginning of the seventh grade a reading instrument adopted by the commissioner to each student whose performance on the grade 6 STAAR reading assessment did not demonstrate reading proficiency.

The commissioner has adopted the following:

- Istation's Indicators of Progress, Advanced Reading (ISIP-AR)
- Reading Analysis and Prescription System (RAPS 360)
- Texas Middle School Fluency Assessment (TMFSA)
- Woodcock Johnson III Diagnostic Reading Battery (WJ III DRB)

LEAs are required to use one of these reading diagnostic instruments. However, because of disruptions to the 2019-2020 school year and possible disruptions to the 2020-2021 school year resulting from COVID-19, districts may request a waiver in order to use another instrument approved by a local district board of trustees in order to best meet student needs in the 2020-2021 school year only.

A waiver of the requirement to use an adopted instrument will only be approved for **one year** and will not be waived in the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

## Dyslexia Screening

**Posted May 28, 2020**

School districts must meet the requirements of TEC §28.006 (required reading instruments) and §38.003 (screening for dyslexia), both of which deal, at least in part, with early screening for dyslexia. Note: the screening requirements have been conditionally waived for kindergartners during the 2019-20 school year (as further described in the ***Special Education FAQ*** on TEA's [COVID-19 Support: Special Education](#) web page).

The criteria in the Dyslexia Handbook for kindergarten and grade 1 screening instruments are designed to meet the requirements of both laws. ***Should a district wish to use a single instrument to meet the requirements of both TEC §28.006 and §38.003, the district may, but is not required to do so.***

Districts must select dyslexia screening instrument(s) that measure the skills identified in the [Dyslexia Handbook–2018 Update](#) (Figure 2.2, page 12).

**There is not a specific list of screening instruments a district must select from to use when screening students for dyslexia.**

**Q Are LEAs still required to screen kindergarten students for Dyslexia for the 2019-2020 school year?**

Please refer to the ***COVID19 Special Education Q&A*** on TEA’s [COVID-19 Support: Special Education](#) web page.

**Q How will LEAs code kindergarten and first grade dyslexia screening results in TSDS/ PEIMS for the 2019-2020 school year?**

Please refer to the ***COVID19 Special Education Q&A*** on TEA’s [COVID-19 Support: Special Education](#) web page.

## Waiver Guidance

A district may choose one of the following three options:

- (A) Request a waiver to use an alternate district-selected kindergarten reading instrument and an alternate district-selected seventh grade reading instrument
- (B) Request a waiver to use an alternate district-selected kindergarten reading instrument only
- (C) Request a waiver to use an alternate district-selected seventh grade reading instrument only

Follow the instructions below to complete a reading diagnostic instrument waiver request:

1. Please visit TEA’s State Waivers webpage to access general information about the waiver process: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/waivers/state-waivers>
2. Please also review Waiver Process FAQ for information on how to access TEAL for the

purposes of submitting a waiver request:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Waiver%20Process%20FAQ.pdf>

3. Once in the TEAL waiver application, under the “Create New Waiver” tab, select the waiver type “**Other Waiver**” to create and submit a request for waiver to use an **alternate kindergarten or 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading instrument due to circumstances related to COVID-19**.
4. Please complete the LEA contact information, including filling in the date the board approved the waiver request.
5. For the section titled “Waiver Description” please use this language:
  - A. “**Waiver to use alternate K and 7th grade reading instruments due to COVID-19**” if requesting a waiver of both requirements
  - B. “**Waiver to use alternate kindergarten reading instrument due to COVID-19**” if requesting a waiver of the kindergarten requirement only
  - C. “**Waiver to use alternate 7th grade reading instrument due to COVID-19**” if requesting a waiver of the seventh-grade requirement only
6. For “General Questions #1,” please use this language:
  - A. “**Waiver to use alternate K and 7th grade reading instruments due to COVID-19**” to request a waiver of both requirements
  - B. “**Waiver to use alternate kindergarten reading instrument due to COVID-19**” to request a waiver of the kindergarten requirement only
  - C. “**Waiver to use alternate 7th grade reading instrument due to COVID-19**” to request a waiver of the seventh-grade requirement only
7. For “General Questions #2,” please enter **N/A**
8. For “General Question #3,” please use this language:
  - A. “**TEC 28.006(c-1) and 28.006(c-2)**” if requesting a waiver of both requirements
  - B. “**TEC 28.006(c-2)**” if requesting a waiver of kindergarten requirement only
  - C. “**TEC 28.006(c-1)**” if requesting a waiver of seventh-grade requirement only
9. For “General Question #4,” please enter **N/A**
10. For “General Question #5,” please enter **N/A**
11. For “General Question #6,” please enter **N/A**
12. For “Requested Years,” please select only “**2020-2021**”
13. For “LEA Attachments,” please include the board agenda from meeting in which the waiver application request was approved.

14. Please submit your completed waiver. For a *District Editor*, at the end of the waiver application you will find a **Complete & Route** button. This will route the application to your Superintendent for review and approval. For a *District Superintendent*, at the end of the waiver application you will find a **Review and Submit** button. This will take you to a review and submit details page. If the application is complete and ready for submission, select the **Submit to TEA** button.