

Proposed Changes to Minimum Accreditation Criteria: 2026 and Beyond

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Tuesday, November 19, 2024

The Time Has Come.

Current: Minimum expenditure amounts valid through LFY 2025/SFY 2027

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/accreditationreview>

Comments and questions to accreditation@tsl.texas.gov

History of Accreditation Rules



Library Systems Act 1969

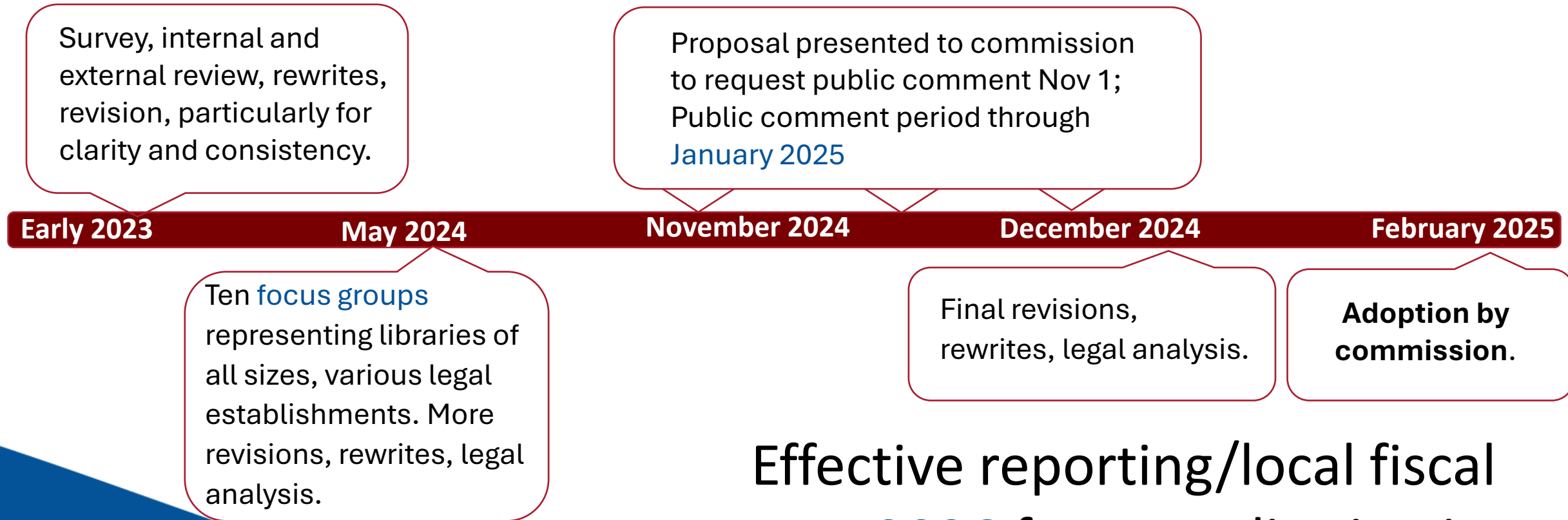
- Upgrade individual libraries
- Provide for cooperation among libraries

First libraries accredited 1971

- Major resource centers (system hub)
- Community library designation



Timeline



Effective reporting/local fiscal year **2026** for accreditation in State fiscal year **2028**.



Process

Internal and external review

Survey and focus group discussions

Legal review and suggestions

Repeated statistical analyses

Additional internal and external review, comments, suggestions



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Principles of Accreditation Review

- Accreditation is not designed to evaluate the adequacy of a public library's staff, budget, resources, or services.
- Most current Texas public libraries should be able to meet any new minimum criteria; the criteria should be inclusive, not exclusive.
- Any new minimum criteria should be clear and understandable and be easy to explain to the local librarian, city/county administrator.
- Should not impose a large data collection and be directly related to library services and activities, based on data that is timely and readily available.
- Enable local public communities to control how they allocate their own expenditures, resources, services, or staff.

Updated in 1990s, 2000, 2007, 2014



What the rules are...and are not



True Minimums

- Local operating expenditures
- Per capita expenditures
- Number of collection materials
- Hours of employment
- Number of service hours
- Number of professional librarians



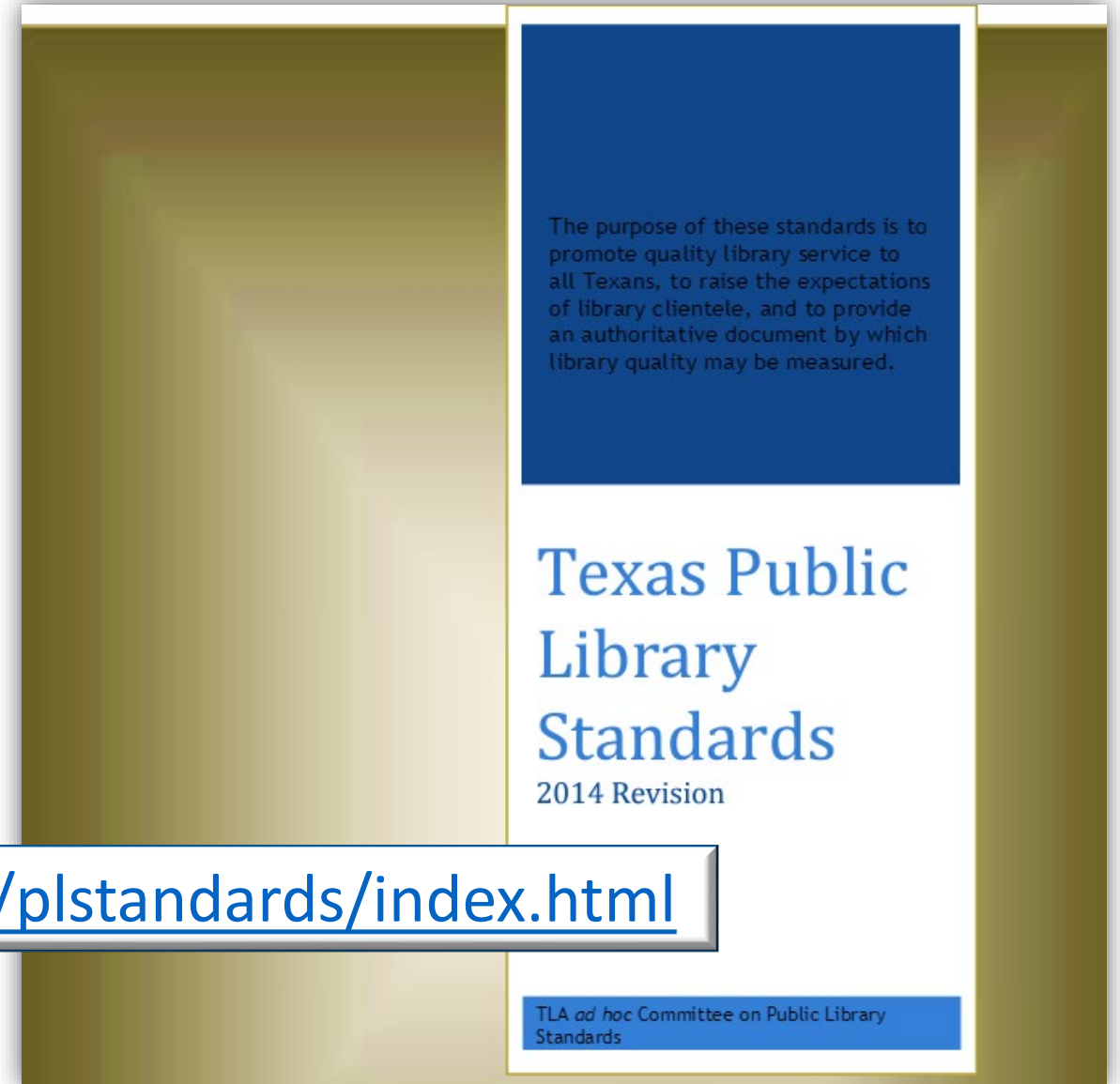
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Texas Library Association Standards

2014 TSLAC/TLA Joint Task Force

- ❖ Enhanced
- ❖ Exemplary

www.tsl.texas.gov/plstandards/index.html





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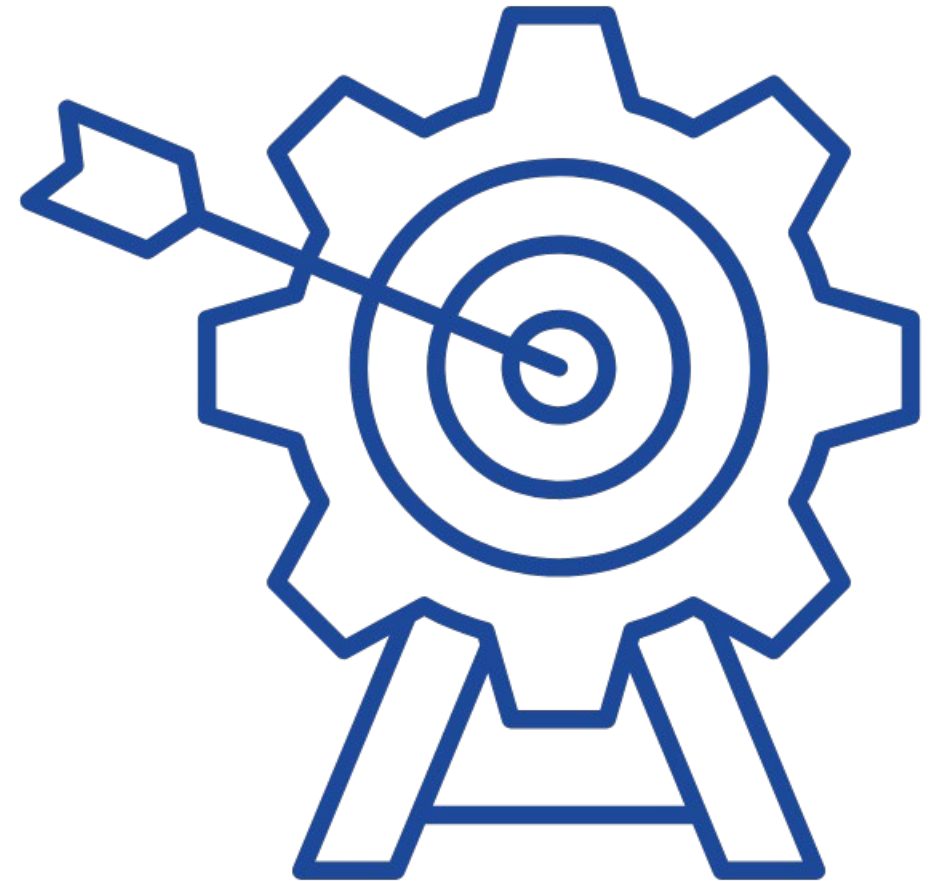
- Update outdated terminology
- Revise financial expectations
- Codify existing procedures
- Clarify procedures, expectations, terminology
- Simplify procedures, expectations, terminology



Proposed Changes to [Minimum Accreditation Standards](#)
[revised October 2024]

Proposed: §1.70 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Aid and encourage
development of and
cooperation among libraries



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Proposed §1.71 Definitions

Defines

Accreditation

Agency

Commission

Continuing Education

Library Collection Items

Library Operating Hours

Local Fiscal Year (LFY)

Per Capita

Professional Librarian

Public Library

State Fiscal Year

Proposed §1.71 Definitions

Agency

Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) as an agency of the state of Texas.

Commission

The seven-member governing body of TSLAC.

Professional Librarian

Person holding a master's degree in information science or similar field, or certification in library or information science from an accredited program.

Proposed §1.71 Definitions

Accreditation

Voluntary community decision to meet and apply for required minimum criteria contained in the administrative rules.

Continuing Education

Professional development activities for staff and directors free of lobbying and relevant to operating of a library.

Library Collection Items

Circulating books, e-books, physical and downloadable audio, physical and downloadable video, and locally licensed database materials.

Per Capita

The locally funded operating expenditures of the library divided by the library's assigned population (Legal Service Area).

Proposed §1.71 Definitions

Public Library

Library that is operated by a single public entity or board, freely open to all persons under identical conditions, receiving financial support in whole or in part from public funds.

Library Operating Hours

The number of unique hours the library is open to the public, set by local governing authorities, based on and subject to local considerations, including need and budget.

Local Fiscal Year (LFY)

The 12-month period used by a local entity for budgeting and operations. The fiscal year in which January 1 of the reporting year falls.

State Fiscal Year (SFY)

The 12-month period beginning September 1 and ending August 31.

Proposed §1.72 Legal Service Area (LSA)



Assigned Population Service Area

Includes “**municipal**” libraries along with city-, nonprofit-, county-established.

Appeals allowed.

New: **LSA final** through the reporting year.

Eliminated mention of **eleemosynary** institutions.

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Proposed §1.73 Public Library Services *Without Charge*



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- 1) Dissemination of civic, community, or other ephemeral material
- 2) Circulation of materials to those with borrowing privileges
- 3) Reserving library materials to those with borrowing privileges
- 4) Reference services
- 5) Use of computers and other technology
- 6) Admission to the facility
- 7) Admission to programs conducted by the library that are sponsored in whole or part by state resources.

Proposed §1.73 Public Library Services

Allowable Charges



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- 1) Replacement of lost borrower cards
- 2) Fines for overdue, lost, or damaged materials in accordance with local library policies
- 3) Postage related to interlibrary loan
- 4) In-depth reference services provided on a contractual basis
- 5) Photocopying, scanning, printing, and fax services
- 6) Passport services
- 7) Library parking
- 8) Sale of publications and retail merchandise
- 9) Rental and deposits on equipment and meeting and event spaces



Proposed §1.73 Public Library Services

Allowable Charges



A public library may charge nonresidents for borrowing privileges, which may include reserving materials and access to library programming.

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Proposed §1.73 Public Library Services

A public library shall serve all members of the general public, certifying annually that no person shall be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the appropriate services of that library in accordance with federal and state law.



Proposed §1.74 Public Library: Legal Establishment



Includes “municipality” as well as city government, county government, library districts, nonprofit corporations.

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Questions



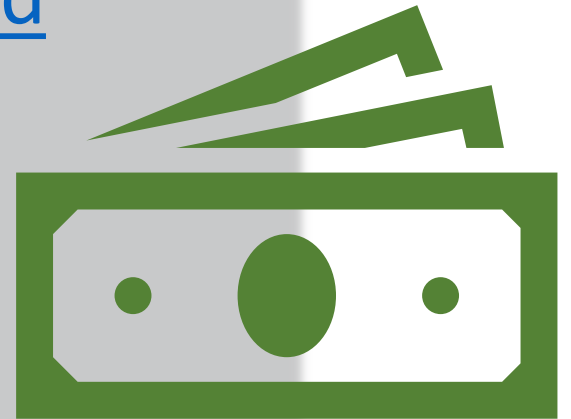
Comments and questions to
accreditation@tsl.texas.gov

Proposed §1.75 Local Operating Expenditures

Local financial effort (MOE) – [MOE Explained](#)

Minimum local operating expenditures
for 2026, 2027, 2028: **\$24,000**

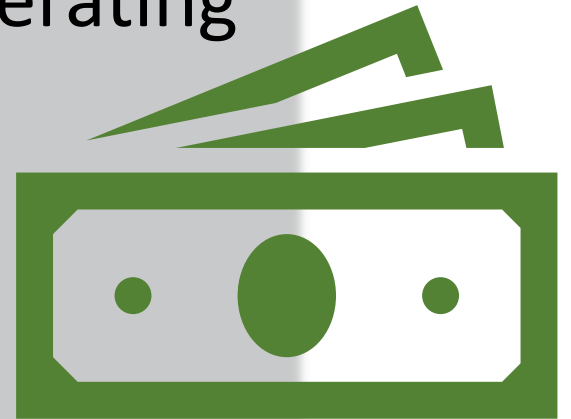
Minimum local government support is half of
minimum per capita local operating expenditures.



Proposed §1.75 Local Operating Expenditures

MOE exemption: **\$22.00** per capita local operating expenditure and **\$200,000** local operating expenditures

Local government exemption: **\$22.00** per capita local operating expenditure



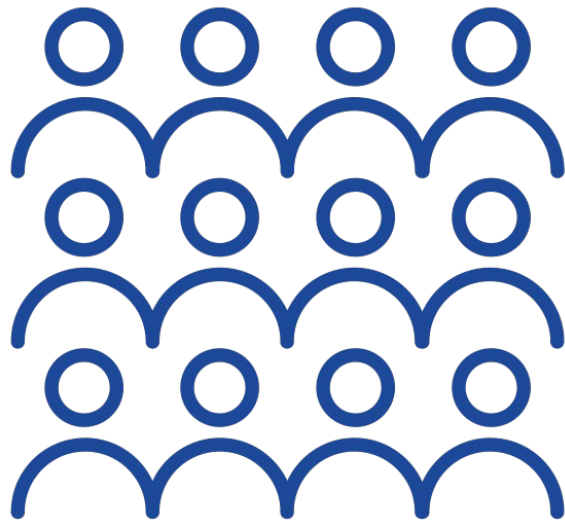
Proposed §1.75 Local Operating Expenditures

Minimum Total Local Operating Expenditures

Years	Minimum Local Expenditures (4.2)
2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (current)	\$21,000
2026, 2027, 2028	\$24,000
2029, 2030, 2031	\$27,000
2032, 2033, 2034	\$30,000

Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards

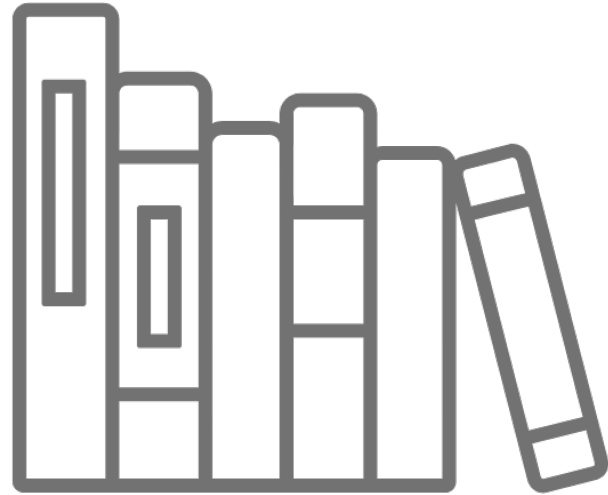
Legal Service Area (LSA)



Persons served	2023 Libraries
Over 200,001	25 libraries
100,001 to 200,000	27 libraries
25,001 to 100,000	104 libraries
Under 25,000	349 libraries

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Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library



One library collection item per capita or expend at least 15% of the library's local expenditures on library collection [items](#).

Libraries serving 25,000 persons or less: a collection of at least 7,500 library collection items.

Must ensure at least [5%](#) of its library collection items were published or created in the last five years.

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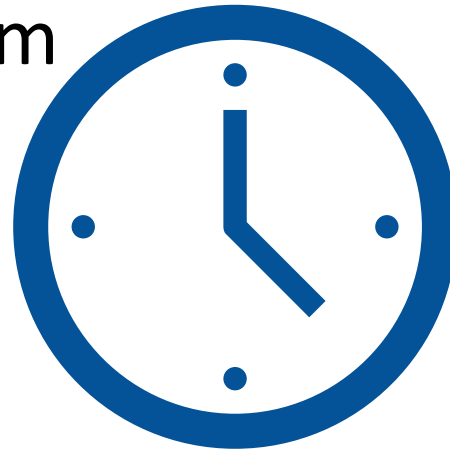


Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library

Libraries with LSA over 25,000

Open for service minimum 40 hours per week.

Employ a library director for 40 hours per week.



Libraries with LSA under 25,000

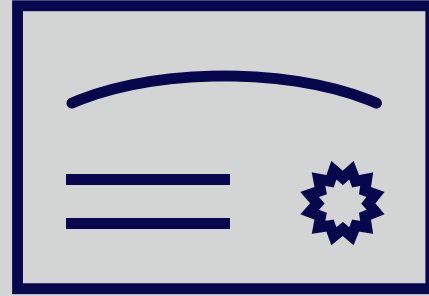
Open for service minimum 20 hours per week.

Employ a library director for at least 20 hours per week.



Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library

Director in LSA **100,001 or more**: minimum of 20 hours of continuing education annually.



Director in LSA **100,000 or less**: minimum of 10 hours of continuing education annually.

Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library

Minimum Per Capita Local Operating Expenditures

Legal Service Area	2026 -2028	2029-2031	2032-2034
Over 200,001	\$13.50	\$13.91	\$14.32
100,001 to 200,000 persons	\$10.50	\$10.82	\$11.14
25,001 to 100,000 persons	\$7.50	\$7.73	\$7.96
Under 25,000 persons	\$5.50	\$5.67	\$5.83



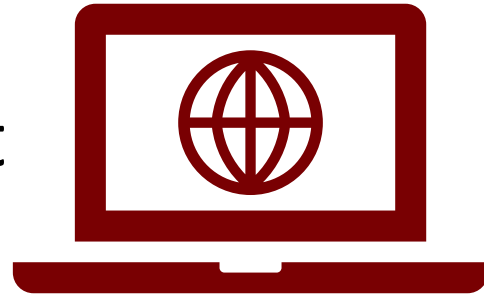
Proposed §1.76 Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library



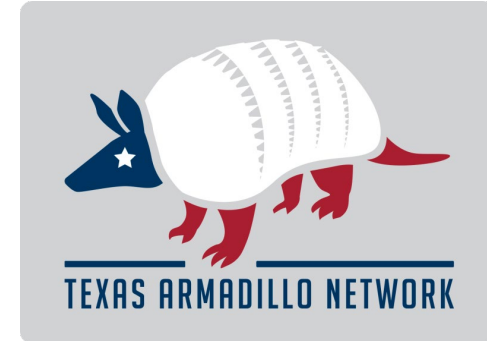
Legal Service Area	<u>Minimum</u> Professional Librarians* on Staff	Plus Additional 1 for Every 50,000 Above
Over 200,001	6	200,000
100,001 to 200,000 persons	4	100,000
25,001 to 100,000 persons	1	50,000
Under 25,000 persons	0	n/a

Proposed §1.77 Other Operational Requirements

Website with services, contact info; Internet access for all, plus access to printer, scanner, copier

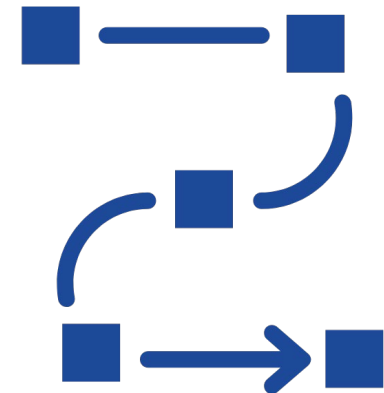


Statewide ILL



Integrated searchable catalog

Strategic Plan
(was, *Long-Range Plan*)



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Proposed §1.77 Other Operational Requirements

Publicly available **policies or procedures** covering:

Circulation

Collection Development

Technology Use

Information Security and Privacy





Questions




Comments and questions to
accreditation@tsl.texas.gov

Proposed §1.78 Annual Report

Report must be submitted during specified time frame

No report submitted results in accreditation loss.



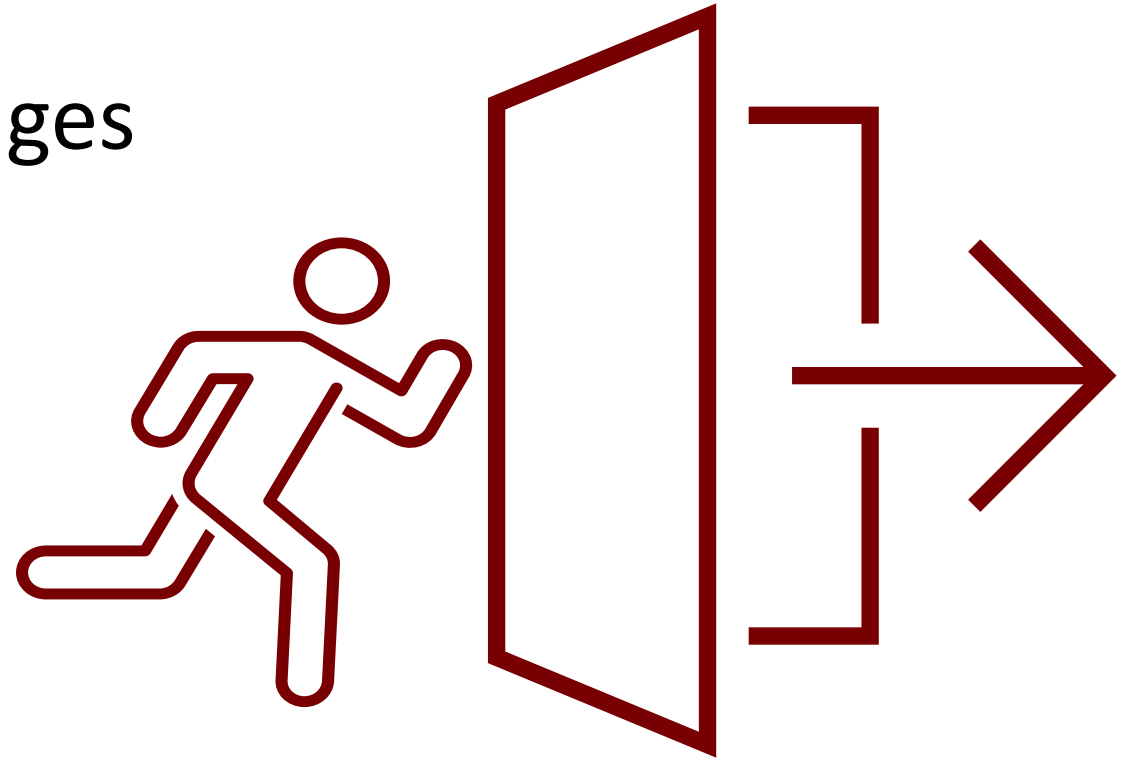
TEXAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES
ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOCAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

This report is due to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) by March 31, 2024!

§1.79 Emergency Waiver of Accreditation Criteria

Adopted in 2021, no changes

Used for circumstances beyond the library's control.



Proposed §1.80 Conditional Accreditation of Library



Consolidation of “Provisional” and “Probational” criteria.

Library fails to meet one criterion.

Three-year resolution period.

Proposed §1.81 Loss of Accreditation

Failure to submit Annual Report

Failure to meet minimums

Infraction of minimums during the year

Reviewed/awarded annually



Proposed §1.82: Appeal of Accreditation



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Appeal to Library System Act Advisory Board (LSA Board)

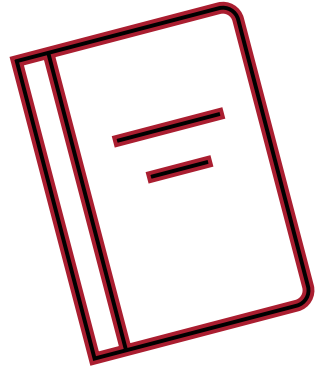
Notify agency of intention to appeal.

Letter, documentation, support needed.

LSA Board makes recommendation to Director and Librarian, who makes the determination.

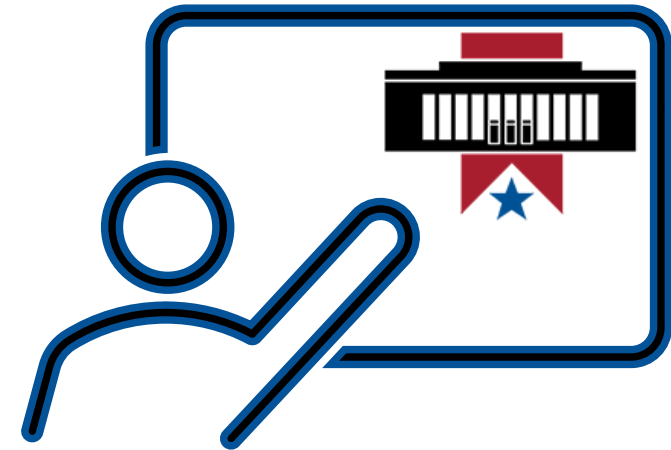
Library can accept ruling or appeal to commission.

Next Steps for Texas Public Librarians



Read [proposal](#)

Present to funding authorities





Scan for Proposal

Comment by [December 30, 2024](#)

Written comments on the proposal may be submitted via email at rules@tsl.texas.gov, or to

Sarah Swanson

General Counsel

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

P.O. Box 12927, Austin, Texas 78711

www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/archive/November152024



Contact Us.

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