

OnShelf Platform Overview:

AI-Powered Compliance for SB13

AI Book Intelligence to Help School Districts Navigate SB 13 with Confidence

This brochure provides a detailed platform overview of how Bookmarked's OnShelf offers a timely and critical solution to support your compliance efforts and streamline library operations.

Disclaimer: The information provided is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional legal advice, and you should consult with a qualified lawyer for advice about your specific situation.



Overview of Senate Bill 13

SB 13 significantly impacts school district library operations, parental rights, and content standards. It mandates clear actions for districts to ensure compliance once approved by the Governor.

Key Mandates for School Districts (Effective September 1, 2025)

Parental Rights & Access:

Districts must provide parents full access to their child's library catalog and checkout history (including classroom, online, and mobile applications). Parents can also restrict their child's access to specific materials, and districts must provide usage and related school records upon request.

Content Standards & Prohibitions:

SB 13 defines "harmful material," "indecent content," and "profane content" and explicitly prohibits such material in school library collections, establishing clear standards.

Policy & Standards Adoption:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is required to adopt and make available a model policy for library material acquisition. School districts may choose to adopt this model, but are not mandated to do so. However, districts must adopt a policy for selecting library materials (including purchases and donations) and adhere to collection development standards adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) by April 1, 2026.

Local Library Advisory Councils:

Parents can petition for the formation of local advisory councils (by submitting a petition signed by at least 50 parents or by parents representing 10% of students in the district, whichever is fewer). These councils will advise on material acquisition and removal, with their recommendations being considered by the Board of Trustees. Councils must reflect community values.

Acquisition & Challenge Process:

Districts must establish and follow defined procedures for acquiring new library materials and for challenging existing ones. The Board of Trustees must adopt a policy for acquiring library materials.

Funding:

Districts are permitted to use their Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment for costs related to parental access and restrictions on library materials.

The Challenges for School Districts

School districts face challenges in adopting and implementing new policies and standards, including creating a model policy for library materials, complying with collection development standards set by TSLAC, and prohibiting specific content.

They also need to manage library material acquisition and challenges by establishing new processes and procedures. Establishing and effectively utilizing local school library advisory councils that reflect community values and considering their recommendations is another hurdle.

Furthermore, districts must facilitate parental rights and access by providing catalog access, enabling restriction requests, providing usage records, and granting access to related school records.

Finally, training staff on these new definitions, processes, and parental access facilitation is crucial for compliance, along with understanding the funding implications related to providing parental access and managing restrictions.

For a more detailed overview of the various compliance actions for school districts, please read our brochure [“Your Guide to Navigating SB 13 with Bookmarked Rev 2.0”](#).



Bookmarked: Your SB 13 & Library Partner

Senate Bill 13 creates significant challenges for Texas school districts, including policy updates, creation of advisory councils, revised processes with strict timelines, and expanded parental rights. Districts need effective tools and strategic support to navigate these changes

Bookmarked, a Texas-based company founded by a former Texas superintendent, offers technology-driven solutions grounded in an understanding of the Texas educational landscape. This expertise is vital for addressing SB 13's specific requirements.

Bookmarked's OnShelf platform is an AI-powered solution, informed by feedback from librarians and superintendents, that provides data-driven insights to automate, streamline, and safeguard library operations within K-12 schools.

OnShelf provides capabilities that support SB 13 in the following areas:

Supporting Policy & Standards Compliance

OnShelf aggregates challenged and banned data nationally on a daily basis using our AI Book Intelligence to identify titles within a district's collection that may not align with legislative requirements or community standards. Developed with input from Texas librarians, OnShelf delivers objective data and potential flags that help districts align with state requirements, including restrictions on certain content. OnShelf makes current information on challenge and ban trends readily available—similar to sources like PEN or ALA, but more frequently updated. This "at your fingertips" access to real-time data on how districts are handling specific titles enhances efficiency for book review committees, supports informed decision-making, and ultimately helps protect the school board and superintendents by ensuring policy adherence.

Informing Advisory Councils Decisions

The objective book intelligence data and challenge history provided by OnShelf are essential tools for informed decision-making by school boards and any local library advisory councils established under the 10%/50 rule (triggered when 50 parents or 10% of the student body—whichever is fewer—submit a petition). It offers transparency and data-driven insights to support their recommendations. OnShelf currently benefits book review committees by providing access to this same information, and a function to upload and manage related documentation.

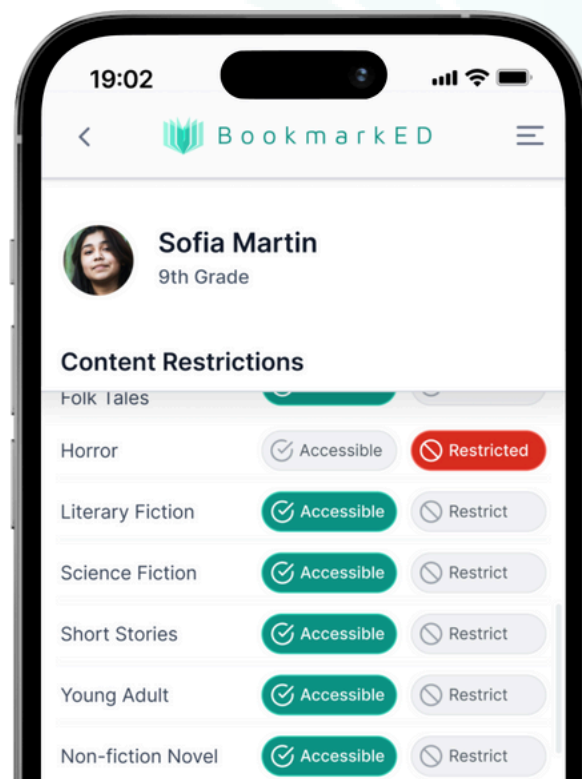
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Streamlined Acquisition & Challenge Management

OnShelf enhances manual reviews, reducing risk and improving efficiency by providing key book information like challenge and ban data, summaries, and discovery questions, supporting compliance with the bill's requirements for material acquisition reviews and challenge processes. OnShelf includes detailed tags, to help navigate the bill's challenge process, informing decisions about temporarily restricting materials under review. It helps make book selection smarter, clearer, and policy-aligned. These tags can also serve as flags for the book review committee, prompting further review to ensure the book's content meets community standards and aligns with their comfort level. In the future, OnShelf will track formal challenges with SB 13-compliant workflows, a process that will be informed by client input to ensure optimal design and functionality.

Facilitating Parental Access & Rights

OnShelf addresses all parental access and rights required by SB13 from providing real time access and notifications to their child's check out history, online access to library catalogues and the ability to restrict access for their child. OnShelf also automates grade-level filtering which is typically used as an additional safeguard for those books which have high literary value but require adult guidance due to the mature subject matter for that particular grade. This allows more books to stay on the shelves while ensuring agreed upon guardrails are in place for specific titles.



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Saving Time & Resources

OnShelf is a centralized platform that provides key book information for review—summaries, tags, discovery questions, daily-updated national challenge and banned data, a document repository, checkout history, grade banding, and parental approval controls—significantly reducing manual work. This saves librarians and book review committees time and reduces district labor costs while facilitating the implementation of SB 13's detailed procedures and strict timelines.

Providing Data and Protection

Not knowing the content within a collection can present risks and potentially lead to significant negative publicity. OnShelf acts as an "AI-powered safeguard" by providing data such as tags, book summaries, challenges and bans associated with that title and feedback from our clients regarding the book to facilitate policy alignment, helping prevent controversy. It offers superintendents visibility into at-risk titles. Our grade banding functionality allows books with mature themes to be systematically restricted to the appropriate age levels.

Get Started Today!

Onboard and train this summer to prepare for SB 13. The streamlined process, requiring only standard agreements (MSA and DSA) without a purchase order, allows for immediate onboarding. Mitigate risks and navigate the SB 13 requirements with greater confidence and clarity.



Navigate SB 13 with confidence and clarity.

Learn more about our
AI Book Intelligence Platform.

Book a demo now!

