

NAVIGATING SENATE BILL 13:

An initial overview of SB 13 and Bookmarked's OnShelf Solution

This brochure provides Texas school districts and Education Service Centers with essential information on navigating the complexities of Senate Bill 13.

Learn about the key requirements of this new law and how Bookmarked's OnShelf platform 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.



Summary of Senate Bill 13

Senate Bill 13 primarily focuses on the regulation of school district library materials and catalogs, parental rights regarding these materials, and the establishment of local school library advisory councils.

Key provisions of the bill include:

Parental Access and Restrictions:

It amends the Education Code to grant parents access to their child's check out history and access to library catalogue which includes school libraries, classroom libraries, online catalogues and library mobile applications. Parents are also given the right to restrict their child's access to certain library materials.

Content Standards:

The bill defines terms like "harmful material," "indecent content," "library material," and "profane content." It establishes standards for school library collections, explicitly prohibiting certain types of content.

Local School Library Advisory Councils:

Under the legislation, parents can request the formation of a local school library council by submitting a petition to the board—if it's signed by at least 50 parents or by parents representing 10% of students in the district, whichever is fewer. These councils will advise on the acquisition and removal of library materials, with their recommendations being considered by the Board of Trustees.

Acquisition and Challenge Process:

The bill details the procedures for acquiring new library materials and for challenging existing materials.

Policy and Standards:

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, the Board of Trustees of each district shall adopt their own library material acquisition policy, including procedures for procurement and handling of donated materials. Additionally, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) must adopt standards for school library collection development by April 1, 2026. SB 13 takes effect as of September 1st, 2025, once signed by the Governor.



School District Compliance Actions for SB 13

To help you navigate Senate Bill 13, here's a breakdown of the key steps and activities you'll need to consider for compliance.

Adopt and Implement Policies and Standards

- **Adopt a Model Policy:** School boards are required to adopt a policy that outlines how library materials are selected, including the process for purchasing new items and accepting donations.
- **Comply with Collection Development Standards:** School districts must adhere to standards for school library collection development adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC).
- **Prohibit Certain Content:** Implement policies to prohibit "harmful material," "indecent content," and "profane content" in school library collections, as defined by the bill.

Manage Library Material Acquisition and Challenges

- **Implement an Acquisition Process:** The Board of Trustees of each school district shall adopt a policy for the acquisition of library materials. This policy must include specific procedures for both the procurement of new materials and the receipt of donated library materials.
- **Implement a Challenge Process:** Establish and follow a defined process for challenging existing library materials within the school district.



School District Compliance Actions for SB 13

Facilitate Parental Rights and Access

- **Provide Catalog Access:** Ensure parents can access the catalogue of available materials at each school library in the district or school. Includes school libraries, classroom libraries, online catalogues and library mobile applications.
- **Enable Restriction Requests:** Allow parents to request and implement restrictions on their child's access to specific library materials.
- **Provide Usage Records:** Supply parents with records of their child's library usage upon request.
- **Grant Access to Records:** Ensure parents have access to their child's school records, specifically those pertaining to library materials obtained from the school library.

Training and Awareness

- While not explicitly stated as a direct "action," implied compliance will require training staff (i.e. librarians, administrators, library aides etc) on the new definitions of prohibited content, the new acquisition and challenge processes, and how to facilitate parental access and restriction requests.

Establish and Utilize Local School Library Advisory Councils

- **Create Councils:** School boards may choose to create a local school library advisory council to help ensure library collections reflect community values. If at least 50 parents—or parents representing 10% of students, whichever is fewer—submit a petition, the district is required to establish one.
- **Reflect Community Values:** Ensure these councils are structured to reflect community values in their recommendations for library catalogs.
- **Consider Recommendations:** The Board of Trustees must consider the recommendations made by these advisory councils regarding the acquisition and removal of library materials.

Funding Update

- SB 13 allows school districts to use their Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (Section 31.0211) to cover costs related to providing parents access to the library catalog and managing individual restrictions on a student's access to specific library materials.

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's AI Book Intelligence aggregates daily national challenge and banned data, flagging titles that may not align with legislative requirements or community standards. This objective data helps districts align with state requirements and supports efficient book review committees.

Informing Advisory Councils Decisions

Provides objective book intelligence data and challenge history, offering essential data-driven insights for informed decision-making by school boards and local library advisory councils. It also allows for uploading and managing related documentation.

Streamlined Acquisition & Challenge Management

Enhances manual material reviews by providing key book information (challenge and ban data, summaries, discovery questions, detailed tags) to improve efficiency and reduce risk. It assists in navigating the bill's challenge process, informing decisions about temporarily restricting materials under review.

Bookmarked: Your SB 13 & Library Partner

Facilitating Parental Access & Rights

Directly addresses SB 13's parental access requirements by providing real-time access and notifications for a child's checkout history, online access to library catalogs, and the ability for parents to restrict specific materials. It also automates grade-level filtering as an additional safeguard.

Providing Data and Protection

OnShelf acts as an "AI-powered safeguard" by providing data such as tags, book summaries, challenges, and bans associated with titles, along with client feedback, to facilitate policy alignment. It offers superintendents visibility into at-risk titles, and grade banding restricts mature themes to the appropriate age levels.

Saving Time & Resources

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

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.

To learn more about our AI-Powered platform, download our "OnShelf Platform Overview" brochure.

Navigate SB 13 with confidence and clarity.

Learn more about our
AI Book Intelligence Platform.

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