



Action Item

Date: May 11, 2026

Division: Chief of Schools

Subject: TXVSN Course Review Process Waiver for 2026-27

Background Information:

- Senate Bill 587 and Rider 45 made changes impacting the TXVSN. Funding appropriated by the 85th Texas Legislature was significantly reduced for a number of TEA programs, including the TXVSN.
- TEA's first priorities continue to be those activities and functions critical to maintain and sustain the TXVSN, with the goal of providing as smooth a transition for students, schools, course providers, and receivers as possible. In transitioning services and migration of technical applications from ESC Region 10 and HCDE to TEA, some TXVSN functions have been suspended or temporarily "frozen."
- The course review process to add courses (new and revised) was suspended.
- LISD's Virtual Learning Academy has a rich catalog of courses authorized under TXVSN. These courses are on different renewal schedules requiring the need to renew various courses each year. In addition, VLA continues to build out the online offerings with new courses that need to also be submitted to TXVSN through the waiver of course review process.
- Districts may request a waiver to the TXVSN course review process administered by the TEA. Only eligible public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may request a waiver. It is important to note that the request is for a waiver of the TXVSN course review process *only*; it is not a waiver of any TXVSN course standards. All courses must meet TXVSN course definitions and standards, including alignment with 100% of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the course, current National Standards for Quality Online Courses, and TXVSN standards and accessibility guidelines.
- Approval by the local board and superintendent is required for submission of any waiver request.
- New waivers are required anytime new courses are created, course TEKS are updated, curriculum is significantly changed or when authorization of prior authorized courses expires.

- Waivers are good for a maximum of three years at which time a new waiver must be submitted.

Administrative Consideration:

- Having LISD courses in the TXVSN catalog impacts ADA funding for students taking an LISD-provided TXVSN course inside the school day. In order to be ADA-eligible for LISD students, online courses must be TXVSN-approved or district-approved through the waiver process and offered through the State catalog.
- Having LISD courses in the TXVSN catalog impacts pricing for LISD students. When ADA funding is an issue for students taking an online course inside the school day, students must select a catalog course. If LISD is the catalog provider, the course is provided at no cost to LISD students when taken in the school day and a reduced fee if taken outside the school day. If the course is offered through an outside provider, LISD students must pay the course fee. Typically, outside provider course fees are \$350 per half credit. A maximum of \$400 per half credit set by statute.

Recommendations:

- Request a three-year waiver of TXVSN Course Review Process for current courses where current approval is set to expire. Each course has different expiration dates throughout the year.
- Request a three-year waiver of TXVSN Course Review Process for new and or redesigned courses. Each course has different expiration dates throughout the year.
- Request a three-year waiver of TXVSN Course Review Process for courses that are up on their 10-year renewal.
- Request a three-year waiver of TXVSN Course Review Process for all courses that have been redesigned to meet new TEKS that will be implemented in the coming school year.
- If the commissioner approves the request, the course(s) may be offered through the TXVSN with designation as a provider-certified course. Students taking these courses are then taking courses that qualify as ADA-generating courses.

Timeline/Report:

- Submit waivers of course review as needed throughout the 2026 school year for new courses being developed and existing courses that need TXVSN status renewed.