



WORKSHOP

MEETING DATE: December 2, 2024

TITLE:

Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Accreditation Standards workshop

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

According to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the current minimum standards of accreditation in the Texas Administrative Code were last updated in 2014. The current accreditation standards cover local fiscal years 2013 through 2025. Information from local fiscal year 2025 will be reported during spring of 2026 for accreditation for state fiscal year 2027. Therefore, to provide for continued accreditation beyond state fiscal year 2027, the commission must update the existing standards. The proposed new accreditation standards were posted in the Texas Register last Friday, November 15th. Public comment period is 45 days, so all comments must be received by TSLAC no later than Monday, December 30 at 5:00 pm.

KEY INFORMATION:

- Accreditation provides an official designation demonstrating that a public library complies with a statewide framework for accountability, minimal operational and financial standards, public transparency, and service requirements.
- Accreditation is not a requirement for public libraries in Texas but grants numerous opportunities such as eligibility to participate in statewide interlibrary loan (ILL), apply for E-rate (a federal telecommunications discount program) and a variety of funding opportunities offered by the commission throughout the year, and take advantage of the TexShare Card and TexShare Databases programs through membership in the TexShare Consortium.
- To become accredited or maintain accreditation, public libraries must submit an annual report to the commission demonstrating they have met each of the accreditation criteria. Each annual report includes information from the preceding local fiscal year and is due during the calendar year following the conclusion of the local fiscal year. If all accreditation criteria are met, the public library will then be accredited for the next state fiscal year.
- Minimum standards of accreditation are not a measure of excellence and are designed to be easily achievable, as TSLAC wants libraries to submit reports annually and be accredited.

PURPOSE:

Discuss the impact of changes to the minimum standards of accreditation on the Bastrop Public Library and other libraries and compile comments, if any, to be delivered to TSLAC.

ATTACHMENTS:

- TSLAC Accreditation Rules Summary
- TSLAC Accreditation Rules Proposal