

Chapter 4. Subchapter O. Open Educational Resources Grant Program.

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4.230 Purpose.

The purpose of this subchapter is to implement rules to establish the Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program, under which the Board awards grant payments to eligible institutional faculty employed by a Texas higher education institution, as defined in Texas Education Code 61.003(8), to adopt, modify, redesign, or develop one or more courses using only open educational resources.

4.231 Authority.

The authority for this subchapter is found in Texas Education Code, Chapter 61, Subchapter 61.0668, which provides the board with the authority to adopt rules to administer this grant program.

4.232 Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the text clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Board or THECB – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) Eligible Applicant – a faculty member or group of faculty currently employed at an institution of higher education, as defined in Texas Education Code 61.003(8).

(3) Institution of Higher Education – Any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, or medical or dental unit, or other agency of higher education as defined by Texas Education Code, 61.003(8).

(4) Open Educational Resources (OER) – A teaching, learning, or research resource that is in the public domain or as been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use, adaptation, and redistribution of the resource by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, media, assessments, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques, whether digital or otherwise, used to support access to knowledge.

(5) Request for Applications (RFA) – A type of solicitation notice in which the THECB announces available grant funding, sets forth the guidelines governing the program, provides evaluation criteria for submitted applications, and provides instructions for eligible entities to submit applications for such funding. The guidelines governing the program may include a Letter of Intent, eligibility requirements, performance expectations, budget guidelines, reporting requirements, and other standards of accountability for this program.

4.233 Eligibility. Faculty employed by a Texas public institution of higher education are eligible to apply for a grant under this program.

4.234 Grant Application Procedures.

To qualify for funding consideration, each eligible applicant must submit an application to Board staff. Each application must:

- (1) Be submitted electronically in a format specified in the RFA; and
- (2) Adhere to the grant program requirements contained in the RFA; and
- (3) Be submitted with proper authorization on or before the day and time specified by the RFA.

4.235 Award Amounts.

The maximum amount of funding available to the program is dependent on the legislative appropriation for each biennium. Award levels and the maximum number of awards will be specified in the RFA.

4.236 Review Criteria.

- (1) Applicants shall be selected for funding based on requirements and award criteria provided in the RFA.
- (2) Award criteria will include, but may not be limited to, consideration of the following factors:
 - (a) The number of students projected to enroll in the course;
 - (b) The evaluation of the application by three selected qualified expert reviewers the curriculum of the course, as determined by Board staff.

4.237 Reporting Criteria.

Grantees must file reports with Board staff as required by the RFA for each applicable course for each of the four semesters immediately following OER implementation. Grantees will provide information that includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- (1) The number of students who have completed the course;
- (2) An estimate of the amount of money saved by a student due to the use of open educational resources in the course;
- (3) A description of the open educational resources used in the course;
- (4) The number of other faculty members, if any, who adopted the curriculum of the course associated with the grant; and
- (5) Any other information required by the RFA.