TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRAD BUCKLEY, D.V.M.

*State Representative · District 54*

January 21, 2026

Texas State Board of Education
C/O Aaron Kinsey, Chairman
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

RE: House Bill 1605 Vocabulary and Literary Works Lists

Chairman Kinsey & Members of the State Board of Education,

Thank you for your continued service to Texas schoolchildren and for your time, careful consideration, and expertise you bring to implementing House Bill 1605. The work before you is consequential, and as the chair of the House Committee on Public Education, I appreciate the State Board of Education's commitment to strengthening literacy outcomes for students across the great state of Texas.

House Bill 1605 reflects the Texas Legislature's promise to give children access to high-quality instructional materials that maintain high expectations for rigorous content and support educators with implementation of that content. This shared foundation is essential for strong literacy development to support Texas children for postsecondary readiness and informed civic participation.

Under House Bill 1605, the State Board of Education (SBOE) is responsible for adopting a required K–12 literary works list and vocabulary addendum for Reading Language Arts (RLA) standards. Part of that statute required the board to seek agency recommendations for that literary works list and vocabulary list.

This month, I know the board received the recommendations from the agency and will begin its deliberations to adopt a required literary works list. The agency's recommendation is the culmination of an intensive process, including:

- A comprehensive survey of over 5,700 teachers in Texas
- A detailed review of literary works lists from multiple sources both in the state and across the country
- An intentional effort to cross-reference multiple statutory requirements and RLA TEKS requirements
- Extensive pedagogical considerations, including ensuring a coherent progression of literature complexity, with a heavy emphasis on canonical literature to encourage critical thinking

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- Incorporation of extensive research on the educational and societal value of ensuring access to a shared base of literary knowledge
- A volume of literary works requirements that ensure consistency for students while still preserving local flexibility for the selection of materials to meet student needs

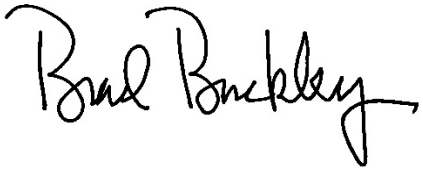
As the author of HB 1605, I'm writing to communicate two things. First, the agency's recommendations precisely meet the legislature's intent. There is a need to ensure consistency in access to a common literary canon for students while also preserving a need for some local customization, and the agency's recommendations get this balance right. Second, I encourage the board to adopt the agency's recommendations in full.

This list represents an unprecedented opportunity to improve the quality of education for millions of Texas students. This rule change will ensure that students are reading whole books, not just a portion or excerpts. It will ensure that students are reading classical and canonical works that push their ability to read, comprehend, and think critically.

I also want to acknowledge the need for additional school and teacher supports to ensure a successful rollout. Multiple provisions of HB 1605 have been designed to ensure teachers receive supports with new instructional material, including funding for both instructional materials and teacher training. Provisions of the most recently passed HB 2 also provide extensive increases in supports for aspiring teachers to be prepared to teach these materials. I am committed to ensuring continued and expanded support for our educators to ensure they are successful in the classroom teaching these literary works.

Thank you again for your service and for your careful consideration as you carry out this important responsibility. I look forward to the Board's continued leadership in advancing literacy and opportunity for all Texas students.

Sincerely,



Brad Buckley
Chairman, House Committee on Public Education
House District 54