



IMCAT
'Delivering the Future'

Dear Administrator/IM Coordinator:

By now, many of you may be aware that your districts' Instructional Materials Allotment has been transferred into the EMAT system. If this amount seemed larger than usual or expected, there's a good reason for that. Prior to the most recent Legislative Session, the Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas heard concerns from IM Coordinators that the sheer volume of Proclamation 2015 would require more funds than many districts would have on hand under the allotment system. Some districts stated that they estimated Proc 2015 would require up to 75% of their biennial allotment.

In response to these concerns, IMCAT, with the assistance of its legislative counsel Colby Nichols of Powell & Leon, LLP, helped lead the charge in advocating for the passing of **House Bill 1474** by Representative Gary VanDeaver. The bill was indeed subsequently passed and signed into law on June 17, 2015. HB 1474 "**front loads**" the instructional materials allotment into the first year of the biennium, so that **the entire biennial allotment will be available for this year**. Additionally, it allows public schools the ability to spend 80% of their biennial amount of instructional materials before September 1st. In the past, districts were only allowed to spend 80% of one-half of their biennial allotment prior to the first year of a biennium. Late on June 29th, the instructional materials allotment funds were transferred into the EMAT system. The Texas Education Agency sent correspondence relating to these changes, which you can find a link to at www.imcat.org.

WARNING: SPEND WISELY

There will be no additional allotment in Fiscal Year 2016-2017! Please note this change for budgeting purposes, as there were concerns expressed about districts exhausting their available funds during the first year of the biennium.

Our message has been and always will be that local districts should have the ability to expend these funds in a flexible manner. We would like to thank Rep. Gary VanDeaver (HD 1 - New Boston) for filing this legislation and his diligent effort to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

Kellie Skarda
Goose Creek CISD
IMCAT President