For educators and administrators, keeping up with the ever-changing developments of education policy isn’t easy. When it comes down to it, you simply want to know what’s available — and how you can use those resources.

TCEA works to understand and share information about the best options schools and districts have available, especially when it comes to funds and programs available to improve digital resources. Current resources go beyond just purchasing textbooks. From professional learning to even enrollment in TCEA’s empowerED program, current programs might be able to help you in ways you weren’t aware of.

Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment (TIMA)

These funds are used to purchase instructional materials, technological equipment, and technology-related services. This allotment is designed to give districts the flexibility needed to deliver content digitally as they deem prudent.

A school district may use TIMA in the following ways:

- To purchase digital or print instructional materials, regardless if they are on the SBOE-approved list.
- To pay for professional development in the use of technology, including contracted services, like TCEA’s empowerED program, or salaries (payroll) for full-time equivalent (FTE) workers.
- To pay for contracted or FTE technical support of equipment used for direct student learning.
- Technological equipment for instructional use:
  - Equipment support: document cameras, cases, charging carts, printers, wireless access points, and bulbs for document cameras and projectors.

For more information, go to www.tcea.org/advocacy/tima or contact TCEA Director of Government Relations Jennifer Bergland at jbergland@tcea.org.
Ed Tech and Professional Learning Resources You Should Know About

### Technology Lending Grants
This grant provides school districts with funds to purchase devices that are loaned to students for access to digital instructional materials off campus. The grant provides personal student learning devices and internet access for students who would not otherwise have access to these resources off campus.

The Commissioner of Education may use up to $12.5 million a year of the TIIMA to fund these grants.

Learn more here: [ly.tcea.org/techlending](http://ly.tcea.org/techlending)

### Weighted Funding for Technology Applications Courses
9-12 Technology Application Courses will begin receiving CTE weighted funding (1.35) beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. These funds can be used to purchase equipment and materials necessary to teach these courses, as well as pay for professional development opportunities for teachers.

### Blended Learning Grants (Math Innovation Zones)
In 2019, Texas House Bill 3 included $6 million a year to be used to provide grant funding for districts to implement Blended Learning. Currently, TEA is using Math Innovation Zones (MIZ) as their blended learning model. These grants support school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in the expansion of blended learning instructional models in math by defining, supporting, and scaling a high-fidelity of implementation.

Learn more here: [ly.tcea.org/miz](http://ly.tcea.org/miz)

### School Safety
Senate Bill 11 is a comprehensive bill that addresses the issue of school safety. This bill created the School Safety Allotment. The bill makes an allowance to use this allotment to pay for “equipment or software that is used for a school safety and security purpose and an instructional purpose,” provided that the instructional use does not compromise the safety and security purpose of the equipment or software.

An example is the use of a device that can be used for instruction as well as a way to communicate with students and staff during an emergency.

### Other District Allotments
In almost all of the other programs that have specific budgets, such as bilingual and special education, it is allowed to use funds to purchase technology and pay for professional development.

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**Your Ed Tech Advocate**
Advocacy means speaking up, and TCEA is advocating for students and educators alike. Whether at the Capitol, SBOE, or anywhere education laws and funding are decided, TCEA is working to focus energy and resources on supporting education. We share our progress on Twitter [@TCEAAdvocacy](https://twitter.com/TCEAAdvocacy), on TCEA’s TechNotes blog, and through scheduled Advocacy Update webinars, which are free to TCEA members.