

Social Studies TETN Notes April 4, 2008

(These are not official minutes of this meeting, only notes about the meeting. They were reviewed by Rosemary Morrow, Director of Social Studies at TEA.)

The TETN was led by Rosemary Morrow. Julie Brelsford, Assistant Director of Social Studies, and Lynn Franzen, Social Studies Program Specialist in the Assessment Division, were also present at the TEA site.

TETN Topics:

- K-12 Databases
- Social Studies Curriculum
- Social Studies Assessment

Rosemary informed the audience that some of today's TETN agenda would be a repeat of recent TSSSA and TCSS committee presentations in Austin. She wanted to ensure that those who could not attend the meetings would have the same information. Since some additional information is now available, she will provide a further update. The Power Point file from today's meeting will be available after the TETN.

- Free K-12 Databases: Information from Instructional Technology Department, Karen Kahan
 - Funded by Rider 88 of the Appropriations Bill of 80th Legislature
 - Provides access at any time for all people in the public education community: teachers, students, parents
 - Developed by EBSCO Information Services and Britannica Online
 - EBSCO Information Services:
 - ❖ Contains 34 online databases with three age-appropriate interfaces for grade K-12
 - ❖ Organized by grade bands: K-2, 3-7, and 6-12
 - Britannica Online:
 - ❖ Includes four complete encyclopedias in English and Spanish and other foreign languages
 - ❖ Aligned to TEKS
 - ❖ Available in multiple languages
 - ❖ Organized by grade bands: PK-1, Elementary, Middle School, and High School
 - Contact your school librarian to get login/password
 - Access materials at <http://web.esc20.net/k12databases>
 - The Legislature is monitoring activity by regions to see how often the resources are being used.

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Social Studies Curriculum

- Pre-Kindergarten Social Studies Guidelines
 - Public comment period is currently open for review of the Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines through April 15.
 - Social Studies Pre-K Guidelines are found on pp. 101-105 of the document.
 - Pre-K has guidelines and not Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
 - Encourage public to comment:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ed_init/pkguidelines/
 - Teachers from all grade levels should look to see what students should be doing as they first come to school, maybe add more points for social studies

- College Readiness Standards (CRS)
 - Awaiting Commissioner of Education's signature
 - Increased graduation requirements
 - Effective beginning with students who enter grade 9 in 2007
 - Some components include
 - 26 credits required for graduation under the Recommended and Distinguished Achievement High School Plans
 - 4 X 4 Graduation Requirements (HB 1, Article 5)
 - Establishes four subject-specific vertical teams
 - Commission for a College Ready Texas (CCRT)
 - Review of the three-phase process:
 - Phase I: The Teams (this phase is completed)
 - ❖ Teams of higher education and public education in each core area
 - ❖ Identify CRS
 - ❖ Facilitated by Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC), University of Oregon
 - ❖ Examples have been removed that were causing some concern
 - ❖ Crosswalk or gap analysis for our TEKS and CRS with national documents; at this time, no comparable documents exist
 - ❖ Previously termed "social sciences" now called "social studies," more in line with our TEKS
 - ❖ Nothing in place yet; will happen a year or two from now for social studies

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- Phase II: Alignment (next step)
 - ❖ Reconstitute teams with 60% public education, 40% high education
 - ❖ Evaluate how TEKS prepare students for college-level work
 - ❖ Recommend how high school curriculum can be aligned to CRS expectations
 - ❖ Rosemary reviewed the documents and identified TEKS alignment; she encourages those in the field to do the same.
- Phase III: Tasks (future work)
 - ❖ Develop instructional strategies for successful college-level work
 - ❖ Develop minimum standards for student support in public and higher education
- THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)/EPIC (Educational Policy Improvement Center), Phases II and III
 - Conduct a validation study
 - Provide sample student assignments and rubrics
 - Full implementation in higher education by fall 2012
 - Link: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/collegereadiness>
 - Print out social studies and cross-disciplinary sections and review
 - Dr. Joseph Kulhanek (Joseph.kulhaneki@tea.state.tx.us) would be glad to hear from social studies folks
- P-16 Initiative
 - HB 3826 (80th Legislature) requires students complete RHSP (Recommended High School Plan) or DAP (Distinguished Achievement Plan) for admissions to any general academic teaching institution
 - Emergency rules adopted by THECB to delay until August 31, 2009
 - After August 31, 2009 students must be on RHSP or DAP to qualify for admissions to four-year institutions.
 - SB 282 – notice to parents of program availability for college credit in public school; at least 12 hours must be offered
- HB 2237
 - Intensive Summer Programs
 - “Education Go Get It” Week; Rosemary can get dates if needed
 - Higher Education and Workforce Readiness Programs
- HB 3851
 - Authority to THECB for computing students’ high school grade point averages (GPAs) for college admissions
 - Secretary Spellings recently announced wants a standard way to calculate GPA for fair comparison from district to district across the nation

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- TALA (Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies)
 - HB 2237, section 4 requires academies be provided addressing literacy instruction
 - Teachers in grades 6-8
 - ELA Academy for English and reading teachers
 - Content literacy strategies
 - Intensive intervention strategies
 - Reading assessment to inform instruction/intervention
 - Content Area Academy for teachers of mathematics, science, and social studies
 - Content literacy strategies
 - Requirement for teachers at Academically Unacceptable campuses
 - Teachers in grade 6 – Summer 2008
 - Teachers in grades 7-8 – Summer 2009
 - Focus on good reading strategies; larger districts probably already have these in place; not as readily available in smaller districts
 - Example: Asking and answering different types of questions
 - Level 1 – Right There
 - Level 2 – Putting it Together
 - Level 3 – Making Connections
 - Training of Trainer dates (May 5-8 in Austin; May 12-15 in Houston; May 19-22 in Dallas)
- TEKS Review and Revision
 - Board meeting last week
 - Voted 15-0 to approve for first reading the ELA and Reading Standards Works document, removing specific examples of content and incorporate information from the “yellow document,” which is the original teacher document with additional work done by the teachers on their own time this
 - Available for public comment on the Texas Register beginning April 18
 - Plan to vote at SBOC meeting in May on second reading and final adoption
 - Science:
 - Teams are working on the Science TEKS revisions as well as two additional courses
 - Science may have draft in the fall
 - CTE
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) is starting work groups to review and write TEKS for around 200 courses (required by law, adoption fall 2009)

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- Mathematics
 - Has to go back and look at TEKS to include CRS and to reflect on a new national report on mathematics.
- Social studies
 - No work group schedule yet
 - Tentative adoption is fall 2009; on hold at this time due to delays with ELA
 - Tentative schedules:
 - ❖ 2010: begin professional development activities for social studies TEKS
 - ❖ 2011: proposed implementation
 - Textbook adoption: Proclamation 2013 in Spring 2010 for social studies grades K-12
 - ❖ November 2012, SBOE adopt instructional materials for social studies and ELA Electives
 - ❖ Proclamation 2013 will have the current use of social studies textbooks and materials on a ten-year cycle
 - ❖ Proclamation number means the year in which the textbooks and materials are in the classroom; different from past format
 - ❖ Fall 2011-2013: overlap between new TEKS implementation and old textbook adoption
- Personal Financial Literacy
 - Fifty approved vendors for the 12 areas of instructions (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/social/pfl.html>)
 - Many schools include this requirement in current high school economics course
- Bible Literacy:
 - Waiting for further information from attorney general's office concerning language ("may" versus "shall")
 - Implementation by law is fall 2009, may want to wait for further information before offering
 - SBOC put into rule what is currently being used by districts: either Independent Study in English or Special Topics in Social Studies
 - Some questions, concerns from public about lack of specificity

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Social Studies Assessment

- End-of-course tests development process to date:
 - U.S. History EOC
 - May 5-23, 2008 – Field test window
 - ❖ Field test schools were chosen and must give tests
 - ❖ Field testing schools are chosen by Pearson as a statistical sampling across the state
 - September 3, 4, 5, 2008 – Educator data review
 - May 11-29, 2009 – Implementation of voluntary assessment
 - Graduation requirement for freshman class 2012
 - World Geography EOC
 - January 20-23, 2009 – Educator Item Review
 - May 4-22, 2009 – Field Test Window
 - Summer 2009 – Educator Data Review
 - May 10-28, 2010 – Implementation of Voluntary Assessment
 - Operational tests:
 - Means voluntary opportunities, district may choose how to participate
 - May choose to give as voluntary tests to get a feel for the assessment before the scores counts
 - Online only in May 2008: (Operational)
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry I
 - Biology
 - Chemistry field test
 - U.S. History field test
 - Reporting of results
 - Algebra I, Geometry I, or Biology: results online very quickly (disaggregated by students, tests)
 - No results reported on field tests
 - Directions on e-testing sites about how to participate in field test, e.g., choosing students to take tests
 - Individuals may send in applications to serve on educator review committees; application on Pearson web site:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/develop/recform.pdf>

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- EOC homepage:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/eoc/index.html>
 - Online testing and training letter sent to districts September 17, 2007
 - 2007 Legislative Briefing Book:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/tea/LegBreBooJul07.pdf> (page 41)
 - Supplemental Aids (e.g., TAKS-M)
 - Supplemental Aids will be edited to remove information considered to be a possible direct answer to test questions
 - See Accommodation Manual for details, pp. 19-22
 - One question relating to playing music during TAKS
 - ❖ Can instrumental music be played for a class during testing?
No
 - ❖ Individual student may use headphones and listen to music
 - Examples of tools and edits are on the slides of the PowerPoint. There are examples that have been allowed as supplemental aids.
 - Tree without labels for branches of government “memory jogger”
 - ❖ Visuals approved with labels
 - Web sites:
 - Student Assessment Division:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/>
 - ARD Manual:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/2007_2008_ARD_Manual_tagged.pdf
 - Accommodations Manual:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/AccommManual_2007_08_tagged.pdf
 - Special Education Letter of September 19, 2007:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/taa/studassmt092007.htm>

Questions from the field

- AP Economics:
 - Which AP Economics course corresponds to the high school economics course, Micro Economics or Macro Economics?
 - Choose Micro or Macro, both fulfill state requirements, when you use AP still must address TEKS for the course you are substituting with AP course
 - Will TEKS stay the same?
 - Depends, Micro and Macro driven by College Board
- Will we have sample test items for EOCs?
 - Farther along with U.S. History, will have some more information after field test this spring
 - All TEKS up for assessment (92 TEKS in U.S. History)
 - 65-question test is tentative plan (plus field test items)

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- What percent of items skills/content?
 - Draft blueprint similar to TAKS Blueprint, took 92 SEs grouped together into objectives, follow strands of TEKS
 - Number of items proportional to TEKS per strands in the course
 - Six objectives instead of five are proposed
- If students fail EOC will they receive credit for the course?
 - Law says 15% of students' average grade will be the EOC score
 - Accountability Department will go back to 81st Legislature (2009) for clarity in language of SB831
- What will be the passing standards? Not yet determined
- Will we still have school accountability rating? Yes
 - Members of the Legislature are interested in looking at the accountability system.

Information from Tom Wurst, Region 4

- Grant written for a Teaching and Learning World Geography session through Texas A&M
- Other teacher consultants and service centers providing workshops for teachers
- Committee meeting in College Station this weekend, teaching modules will be shared with teacher consultants, scheduling dates for summer along with long-term staff development in their districts
- Tom has list: Region 20 is participating, most of the balance in eastern half of state
- Contact Tom for more info: twurst@esc4.net or 713.744.8194
- Texas Alliance for Geographic Education:
 - Offering two different workshops for 6th grade world cultures held in Humble, 3-day for introducing new teachers to course, new module following 2-day for advanced world cultures teachers
- Web site available: <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage/#> (third link on the page: "6th Grade World Cultures Workshops - Introductory and Advanced")

Teaching American History Grants

- Grant winners for 2008 from Texas are:
 - Region 14 ESC (Abilene)
 - Fort Worth ISD (Region 11)
 - Houston ISD (Region 4)
 - La Joya ISD (Region 1)
 - Clear Creek ISD (Region 4)
 - Pasadena ISD (Region 4)
 - San Antonio ISD (Region 20)
 - Region 12 ESC (Waco)
- All information is available online at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/awards.html>

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The Power Point file concerning Alternative TAKS from previous TETN is now available and will be sent to ESC consultants.

Questions from the field:

- Do ESC staff members have access to the free database mentioned at the beginning of today's TETN?
 - Yes, check with library services contact at your ESC
 - Student teachers can have access through higher education institutions, not the districts where they are working (state library system)
 - Only public schools have access, not private or home schools
 - Amount of use is tracked
 - \$2.5 million designated for this resource; "use or lose"
- TALA:
 - Stipend paid to those attending state training, whether or not they are required to attend
 - Districts who offer the training outside the state funded trainings may offer stipends or not as they choose; the state will not fund those stipends
 - Priority in registration will be given to Academically Unacceptable schools
 - TALA Web site has contacts for each region:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/tala/>
- TAKS Released Tests: Will this year's test be released or will tests be released on a three-year cycle?
 - No final decision has been made yet on the released test cycle for TAKS
 - SB1031 talks about EOCs using three year release cycle and going toward that with assessments in general; we are waiting for official word on whether that applies to TAKS at this time

Other information and announcements

- Judges needed for National History Day in Austin May 3-4, 2008
 - Sign up online at Texas State Historical Association Web site:
<http://www.tshaonline.org/education/thd/index.html>
 - Serena Rodriguez left Bullock Museum to go to Whitey Museum in San Antonio
- Today marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Region 4 is publishing a book on Differentiation for Gifted/Advanced Students in Social Studies
- No listserv this week

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- Rosemary would like to recognize those who have done outstanding work and received awards; please forward information to her.
- Best wishes to Tina Melcher who is getting married on April 12 (formerly Region 13, now at Round Rock)
- Good to have Dana Kelly back (Region 10)