

Social Studies TETN Notes **May 29, 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 Brenda Tingle, Department of Assessment, were also present.

Meet New People:

Best Practices Clearing House

- Eartha Patrick: Curriculum Division, responsible for Best Practices Clearinghouse
 - This initiative was established by legislature May 2006
 - ❖ The website has been launched as of February 1, 2008 and covers a broad range of topics.
 - ❖ Schools must be recognized or exemplary to submit a best practice to the website.
 - ❖ There are currently 21 best practices available.
 - ❖ The instruction area is where social studies is needed.
 - ❖ There are none available from high school so far.
 - Join listserv to receive updates
 - Instructions for submitting on website:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/bestprac/>
 - New best practices will be accepted again in October 2008.
 - Rosemary will send a separate listserv message with details.

Brenda Tingle introduced two new members to her team.

- Lisa Medina (World Studies EOC): Bachelor from Texas State University, History/English, 10 years teaching, including Austin ISD, SS, ELAR
- Nicole Ellis (Grade 8 TAKS): graduate from UT, San Marcos, taking over Julie Breslford's previous position, taught World Geography at San Marcos

Update:

- TAKS
 - Raw score conversion table are up on TEA website.
(<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/scoring/convtables/2008/index.html>)
 - Cut scores remained the same.
 - Student results should be available today or tomorrow; check the student assessment page, "What's New" box.
(<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/index.html>)
- EOC (End of Course Exam)
 - U.S. History was field tested in May and will be live next year.

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- WG will be voluntary next year. Administration will be in May only for right now once the test becomes high stakes tests, there will be multiple administrations.
- Raw scores for online tests will be available within 24 hours.
- In August, 2008 TEA will provide big data files without report formats; until standards are set, we will need to develop state wide reports.
- Spring 2009: World Geography and Physics EOCs will be field tested. Districts who will participate will be notified in August/September 2008. Pearson selects those districts to represent wide representation of Texas students.
- Educators are needed to volunteer for test questions review committees, which meet in Austin. Upcoming dates include:
 - ❖ September 3-5: review data from recent U.S. History field test
 - ❖ January 14-16: U.S. History review of new test items
 - ❖ November 10-13: World Geography item review
- TEA will post a new job in Social Studies: U.S. History EOC Specialist
- Please feel free to contact Brenda anytime.

Questions:

- When using the term "voluntary tests," that is not the same as field tests. In May 2009 a live U.S. History test is available; this means the test is not required. Contact Pearson and sign up. Any number of classes, students, or schools can participate. The school is not held accountable for the test results. Students can take the test, and you will receive a report. You will not know which SE is tested, but you will receive data per objective. This information can be valuable in preparing for the real test.
- When will the TAKS test be released? Brenda checked this morning, and no decision has yet been made. The law says that the EOC will be release every 3 years, and the law is still being interpreted by TEA before action is taken.
- May 2009 is a field test for World Geography EOC, not a live test.
- Blueprint or information book for the EOC will be developed after field test is evaluated. An advisory teacher group for World Geography has a data review meeting scheduled. They will review student performance, then produce a draft blueprint (SE) review with another teacher advisory group. The projected date is October 2008; these blueprints will not be as detailed as the current TAKS Information Booklets.
- The U.S. History live test is May 11-29, 2009. The WG field test is May 4-22, 2009. Etest web link will be sent out through listserv that is a good resource for online testing.

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- Some teachers are frustrated with TAKS testing and UIL activities conflicting. The testing calendar is developed three years in advance with representatives from several districts across the state. There are always some overlaps. Brenda doesn't have any control over that situation.

Assessment Update

Curriculum Director not in place at this time, and there are three Unit Manager positions posted. Rosemary reports directly to Anita Gibbons,

SBOE (State Board of Education) Update

- ELAR (English/Language Arts/Reading) TEKS Revisions
 - The new ELAR TEKS were passed by a vote of 9-6 last Friday. Some Board members worked on documents to cut and paste from a teacher's document.
 - Many are eager to see the new document; in another week it should be formally posted; at that point it will be public information for discussion.
 - Suggested reading lists included Texas literature.
- Pre-K Standards/Guidelines have been approved by Commissioner.
 - Not the same as TEKS
 - Not compiled by TEA

TEKS Review process

- SBOE make nominations this fall for social studies reviewers
- TEA staff wants to get SBOE to agree on process for science, CATE (Career and Technical Education), and social studies to smooth process. CATE has different process and earlier deadline due to legislation.
- This item will discuss again in July to understand the process involved
- Math will be opened up again to align with the College Readiness Standards (CRS), high school only.
- Social studies will need to include CRS into our TEKS revisions process.
- Pre-K Guidelines need to be look at when reviewing K-1 to ensure alignment. There are available at

Social Studies TEKS Review

Bible Literacy

- Attorney Gen still has not ruled on these two questions about the Bible Literacy course:
 - The word "may" at the beginning of the document
 - Standards for the course
- The SBOE submitted to the Attorney General those general TEKS for Special Topics in Social Studies and ELA Independent Studies

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- Teachers MUST be certified in the content area where course is being offered. There is no money for funding professional development for this course, and none is in the planning stages until we get information from the Attorney General.
- There is no funding provided for textbooks or resources.

Question:

- Timeline for TEKS Revision
 - Recently it was announced that the members of the SBOE will make recommendations for committee members in the Fall 2008. Rosemary and Julie were not told about this new announcement before it was communicated.
 - Rosemary suggested that interested individuals wait until July to contact their SBOE members.
 - The SBOE will meet to determine the procedures for this review process. If you are interested in serving, you would obtain a recommendation form and submit it to your SBOE member. The SBOE member may rank the applications by some criteria.
 - The call will go out for nominations in Fall 2008, and meetings will begin during Winter 2009 (January/February).
 - Science TEKS revision committee model:
 - ❖ In the science TEKS revision committee, there are 3-5 people serving at each grade level; social studies will likely follow that model.
 - ❖ Science divided into two groups meeting at different times: K-8 and 9-12. Space is an issue when K-12 meets all once.
 - ❖ It has been helpful to have the grade bands meeting together so vertical alignment conversations can take place.
 - Board process for approval of TEKS revisions:
 - ❖ The current timeline says that the revisions should be adopted by Fall 2009.
 - ❖ The SBOE receives a draft for discussion at one meeting.
 - ❖ The revisions are presented at the next meeting for first reading.
 - ❖ The final document is present at a third meeting for second reading, and final adoption can take place. This can take place with the same board meeting as the first reading.
 - ❖ We should be able to meet the Proclamation Fall 2013 for textbooks as the timeline is stated at this time.
 - The July 17-18, 2008 SBOE meeting may address the process for developing TEKS for science, CATE, social studies, Bible literacy, and Spanish language.

College Readiness Standards Update

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- Document due 2011 to submit
- Nominations collected for vertical teams, Phase II will start – Gap Analysis

Math and science will be first, and the social studies and ELA will reviewed secondly.

TALA Training: update by Julie

- Trainings start June 2 statewide,; contact ESC for information and registration.
 - Includes training on specific strategies for social studies, such as:
 - Frayer model
 - Notes log
 - Getting the gist
 - Writing summaries
- Stipend is available for 1½ day content training \$125, with online follow up \$125 stipend later.
- Rosemary said Muffet Livadais reported that content areas need more registration.
- Grade 6 teachers targeted this year.
- Comments from trainers: Barbara Dorf, Region 11: excellent training, sixth grade teachers have opportunity to increase methodology.

Other Items:

- College Readiness Standards (CRS): Nominations have been received for vertical alignment committee members. Phase II will begin with gap analysis soon. Rosemary thanked those who submitted nominations. Math and science are going first since they are working on TEKS revisions at this time.
- Textbooks: Mid-cycle review is a part of new legislation that will present interesting challenges; for example, math is revising TEKS after their textbook adoption took place.
- Social studies TEKS will be in place for more than 10 years, but textbook adoption will last more than 10 years.

Questions from the Field:

- Region 10: For a future TETN, possibly look at overlap between old TEKS/new TEKS and EOC/TAKS transitions.
- TEKS implementation is scheduled for 2011; if approved, there will be one year to do professional development. The textbook timeline is: proclamation Fall 2011; review Fall 2012; implement in Fall 2012.
- Region 19: If CRS will be addressed in the coming TEKS review, should we start implementing them now? The more you can start putting them in, the better. It is wise to have the CRS in the forefront of your

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thinking, without any pressure of a mandate, to see how they will work.

- Commissioner has not yet signed off on CRS as of Wed May 28.
- Region 13: CRS Phase II of gap analysis Phase III finding way to bridge that gap – which is another year or so down the way.
- Gap analysis between social studies CRS and TEKS is not possible.
 - Other content areas, e.g., math or science can do this analysis due to the structure of their courses.
 - Social studies cannot because there are separate courses (e.g., World Geography, World History, U.S. History).

College Readiness Standards:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/collegereadiness>

- Dr. Joseph Kulhanek came in at this point in the meeting. After gap analysis, will there be changes to CRS if/where gaps exist? (Phase III)
- CRS will not change. If gaps occur, TEKS must be changed to align to CRS. The SBOE is charged with overseeing that process.
- The CRS will be approved before social studies TEKS revision, so we'll be able to see gap analysis of CRS as we look at TEKS revisions. Math and ELA will have to revise TEKS based on CRS.

Announcements:

- Rosemary will distribute information out on listserv about the Best Practices Clearinghouse from Ertha.
- The next social studies TENT will be held on July 24, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, following the July, 2008 SBOE meeting.
- Rosemary thanked Ertha, Brenda, Lisa, Nicole, and Joseph for their participation.
- Mel Moreau from Region 5 thanked everyone for their outpouring of condolences in response to their loss. Several people from Region 5 ESC and their schools were killed or injured during a recent trip to Mexico.
- A U.S. History Institute will be held on July 24-25, 2008 in San Antonio at Fox Tech High School. There is a \$50.00 registration fee (, which includes membership in the Texas and National Council for History Education. The meeting is sponsored by Region 13 and 20. Next year's meeting will be held in Austin.

Rosemary sent everyone best wishes and hopes for a great and fun-filled summer.