

Social Studies TETN Notes
July 24, 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. Janice Lopez with Educator Standards was also present.

Roll Call: Region 1 was not attending due to hurricane and flooding conditions in the Valley. Region 13 introduced a new Education Specialist, Jodi Kuhn.

Teacher Certification: Janice Lopez, Educator Standards

- The Department of Education (DOE) has reviewed certification standards for teachers in each state. The social studies composite in grades 8-12 has raised concerns. DOE is requiring the certifications in each specific content area such as history, geography, government and economics.
- Rationale example: Someone could fail the economics/government part of the composite test and still be certified to teach those high school courses. This possibility is not aligned to NCLB and the "Highly Qualified" Teacher standards.
- TEA is still determining how the standards will be addressed on the tests, but they will potentially break the composite test into single subject tests: economics, government, and geography. History already exists as a separate test.
- There is a possibility of combining exams into two areas each: e.g., government and economics, sociology and psychology.
- The changes are under consideration; TEA is alerting the field that a change is coming.
- Choices are limited by Department of Education. The year 2010 would be the first year the new tests would need to be in place.
- Feedback to Janice is welcome; contact her at janice.reyna@tea.state.tx.us. Please include both Janice and Rosemary in any email messages you send on this topic.
- Janice will continue to communicate updates through Rosemary and at our next TETN.
- Question from the field: Are psychology and sociology affected? Yes, they need to be addressed. Potentially there could be five brand new tests (psychology, sociology, government, economics, and geography).
- Recently gathered data reveals that many sections of psychology and sociology are taught across the state.

TEA News: A new Curriculum Director has been hired: Shannon Baker, from Ector County ISD. She plans to attend our next TETN.

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College Readiness Standards (CRS): Phase II of College Readiness Standards has begun for mathematics. Social studies and science will follow math and ELA. Rosemary and Julie were invited to observe the math meeting and felt that the process was going very well. Social studies will fold in the CRS with the process of revising the social studies TEKS.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Update: Rosemary Morrow
On Wednesday the House Education Committee met at the capitol. On Thursday, the Committee of the Full Board met to discuss various topics. Those of interest to social studies educators include:

Spanish Language Arts TEKS:

- Standards were passed on first reading. They will be posted on the Texas Register for 30 days to provide the opportunity for public input. At the September meeting, the Board will consider the Spanish Language Arts TEKS for the second reading and final adoption. ELA standards are now approved and posted, and the revised Spanish Language Arts TEKS reflect these revisions.

TEKS Review Process:

- The Board has approved a process for TEKS review that will be implemented with science, career and technical education (CTE), and social studies TEKS reviews.
 - For social studies, there will be an application form for anyone to complete who is interested in serving on the work groups.
 - These work groups will include educators, parents, industry and business leaders, and community members. Demographics, ethnic, and gender representation will be addressed. Be thinking about community people who might be willing to serve on the committee.
 - A concern during the ELA review process was that the work groups needed more time. Those who are interested in working on the TEKS review should be aware of the time commitment involved. No compensation is given for time spent in the work group meetings. Only travel costs are covered by TEA.
 - Anyone can apply to serve on the work groups. TEA will sort the applications by state board districts. Then the board members will rank the submitted applications and recommend group members from that list. The board president approves the final list.
- This process should alleviate some of the problems experienced by the ELA work groups.
- Experts will review the standards. The criteria for "expert" have not been determined.
- **Tentative timetable for social studies TEKS review:**
 - SBOE nominations, Fall 2008 (Nominations solicited in the Fall 2008 [around September and October]: application forms will be posted online. Rosemary will inform the field when the form is ready. State

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board members may send out forms as well. State board members will rank lists of nominees around November.

- Start workgroup meetings, Winter 2009
January-February 2009: work groups will begin meeting.
- SBOE Discussion, Fall 2009
SBOE will discuss the proposed revisions at a meeting before the first reading (around September).
- First Reading and Filing, Fall 2009
first reading and filing to Texas Register (around November).
- Second Reading and Adoption, Spring 2010
The draft for the second reading will come from the public comments 30 days after posting to Texas Register. Spring 2010 is targeted for final adoption.
- Professional Development for TEKS and CRS student materials, Spring/Summer 2011
Spring 2011 and Summer 2011: provide professional development sessions about the revisions.
- Implementation of TEKS and Social Studies online College Readiness student materials, Fall, 2011 (HB 1)
- Proclamation 2013 Social Studies Instructional materials in schools, Fall 2013 (includes English Language Arts electives)
- The board can hire a facilitator if they choose. More guidelines about this position will be set if a facilitator is hired. It is not required.
- The legislature does allow for new materials to be considered mid-cycle (between proclamations). Social studies is not eligible for mid-cycle consideration since we are in the process of reviewing and revising standards.
- Elective credits for athletics: High school athletics can count as up to two credits currently, even if a student takes athletics more than two years. A parent has petitioned through the appeal process for reconsideration of this rule to allow athletes to receive up to four elective credits for athletics. The board will discuss this issue at the September meeting with possibility of action at that time.
 - The board members were not really sure what they wanted to do about this situation but will consider the petition. The parent said that on block scheduling his son is having trouble getting all his credits, whereas other programs like ROTC and dance do not have the same problems.
 - There are no standards written for athletics at this time, so it is likely standards would need to be written. ROTC and dance do have written standards. Students working on the Distinguished Achievement plan have little room for more credits in their schedules.

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Career and Technical Education

- Anita Gibbons gave an update CTE. Many committees are working on CTE standards as CTE must have their standards updated by September 1, 2009, as prescribed by law.

Bible Literacy:

- The Attorney General (AG) has issued a ruling on one of three questions before him concerning Bible Literacy as a course. [TEA will soon have available an FAQ document that should address most of the questions the field has about Bible Literacy.]
- The broad standards on first reading are in compliance with First Amendment. There are still two rulings before the Attorney General:
 - Are districts required to offer the course?
 - If 15 or more students want to take the course, will district be required to offer it?
- The Board voted 10-5 to pass the standards with some changes; the changes go into effect immediately.
- Implementation is required in 2009-10 by law.
- No funding for professional development on the course is available.

Academic Achievement Record (AAR) Update

- There are new forms for AAR implementation; AAR is a record keeping system for student data. Districts piloted it last year; it seems easier than the previous process.
- T-REX, an electronic transcript system, is coming into place but is limited in the information it can provide.
- A booklet is coming out with information about how to use AAR.

Release of Tests

- On first reading, the Board approved the rule that TAKS will be released every three years.
- We will not receive released tests from Spring 2008. The next released tests will be those given in Spring 2009.

Question about CRS:

- Phase II will involve looking at the CRS and TEKS and see how they align. The alignments will be evaluated as strong, average, or weak.
- The review takes a look at each CRS standard one at a time.
- Mathematics is working on grades 6-12 at this time. Rosemary observed that the process seems to be working well.
- Social studies will be reviewed at the same time the TEKS are under revision. Each discipline does not have to do it the same way.
- The CRS will need to be part of the state assessment, but how that will look is unknown at this time.

Announcements:

- Rosemary is looking for a set of videos "Texas: Yesterday and Today." If you have a set, let her know. She needs to borrow them. They were

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produced by Jack Hayden. Region 20 has all eight videos. Rosemary asked to check copyright restrictions for duplication.

- Stephanie, Region 20, San Antonio
 - Conference tomorrow: The weather may be an issue if you are traveling to San Antonio.
 - October 2008: Texas Council for the Social Studies (TCSS) will be in San Antonio. Stephanie has arranged for us to have our ESC consultants meeting at the Alamo on October 22.
- Tina Melcher, Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association (TSSSA), mentioned that the conference is on October 23 in San Antonio. Presentation and registration forms will be on website by the end of the month. <http://www.tsssa.org>.
- Rosemary will send listserv next week.