

Social Studies TETN Notes **September 25, 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, Director. Julie Brelsford, Assistant Director of Social Studies, was also present. (Brenda Tingle from Assessment broke her foot over Labor Day and was not able to attend.)

Agenda:

- Presentation on Achieve Texas by Diane Salazar and Karen Alexander
- Brief update on Career and Technical Education (CTE) TEKS Review and CTE Panel
- Agenda items for new SBOE meeting date: Monday, September 29
- Social Studies Assessment Update
- Social Studies TEKS Review Process Update
- Dialogue Time

Presentation on Achieve Texas

- Presenters:
 - Diane Salazar, Director of CTE at TEA
 - Dr. Karen Alexander, Texas Tech University
- Diane and Karen went through a detailed presentation concerning the Achieve Texas project, which promotes high school completion and college preparation and achievement, as well as career preparation.
- Goals for Achieve Texas Initiative
 - Improve student achievement-both academic and tech
 - Promote successful transitions from sec to post sec
 - Support workforce and economic development
- Social Studies TEKS includes economics and CTE-related concepts at all grade levels.
- Implementation Expectations
 - Implementation by 2012
 - Full implementation means that all of the 8 steps in the Implementation Guide are in place at the local level.
- Resources: Website <http://www.achievetexas.org>
 - Achieve Texas Implementation Guide: 24 page booklet for all stakeholders, purchase or view/download on website, some hardcopies available
 - 16 individual booklets for students on specific career Programs of Study, available as an e-zine (electronic magazine format)
 - Counselor's Resource Guide Book: steps for students to engage in developing their programs of study
 - Cluster guides
 - Poster and CD-ROM
 - Work Force Commission: <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/index.asp>

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- *Careers are Everywhere* booklet for elementary
- *Explore Your Options* tabloid for middle school
- *Career Success* tabloid for high school
- Team approach for implementation on the local level, not just the counselors
 - Counselors have limited career resources at this time
 - CTE and Social Studies will be collaborating on resource development that addresses an understanding of work and jobs.
- Fits for social studies: Economics and Public Administration, Government and Public Administration
- Implementation Guide: <http://www.achievetexas.org>
- Contact Karen at karen.alexander@ttu.edu for more information.

TEA Update

- Hurricane Ike
 - Rosemary offered condolences to people in the Houston area.
 - She has received messages from several districts affected by the storm.
 - One question concerned missing Freedom Week due to the storm, but students experienced first-hand what freedom means. If you missed school and did not observe Freedom Week that is okay. Opportunities for implementation occur during the rest of the school year. Constitution Day is a federal requirement, and what documentation is needed is unclear.
- State Board of Education (SBOE)
 - At least 5 SBOE members were impacted by Ike, so the regularly scheduled SBOE meeting was postponed until Monday, September 29.
 - Agenda items which could not wait until November meeting:
 - ❖ Assessment: Answers are being sought for SB 1031. Rosemary will provide an assessment update at the convention in San Antonio in October.
 - ❖ Second reading/final approval: Released tests will be provided every three years (SB 1031). The costs of tests and EOC rules were the impetus for this decision.
 - Employers recognized for excellence awards
 - Curriculum
 - ❖ Math reopened part of their TEKS to include College Readiness Standards (CRS). They went down to Grade 6 to incorporate CRS (HB 1), and will take these changes to board for discussion.
 - ❖ ELA Vertical Teams have been meeting the past two days, but they not ready to take their proposals to SBOE yet.

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- ❖ Science is including CRS as they are currently revising their TEKS.
- ❖ Social studies will follow science's process.
- SBOE update on TEKS revisions report was presented.
- Applications are now available for social studies working committees.
(<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/SSTEKSApplcation.pdf>)
 - ❖ Application must include resume as attachment.
 - ❖ Each team must have community members and parents; please share this application with others.
 - ❖ The applications will be sent to curriculum division, sorted by state board member districts, and turned over to them. State board members will rank order the application in the manner in which they want the people in their area represented. There will be 3-5 people at each grade level.
 - ❖ The board members want representation from across the state, as well as ethnic and gender representation balance.
 - ❖ The deadline is October 31, and the applicant may need to answer further questions to convey more information
 - ❖ The committees plan to meet around the first of January, and the plan is to work about 10 days total. There is no stipend for serving, but reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging in Austin will be provided.
 - ❖ Economics was left off the first version but is now included. High school courses will also look at AP standards as well as regular TEKS.
- Spanish LA TEKS and ESL TEKS will come up for second reading and final adoption.
- Now available: Q&A for Proclamation 2010 for publishers for ELA and Reading instructional materials, later amendments for Proclamation 2011.
- Shannon Baker is the new Managing Director of Curriculum and Norma Torres Martinez, former Math Director is the new Foundations Unit Director. Anita Givens will serve as acting Associate Director of Standards and Programs, filling in for Dr. Sharon Jackson who is retiring.
- Bible Literacy and GPA:
 - ❖ Frequently Asked Questions on Bible Literacy should soon be posted.
 - ❖ GPA: The Attorney General ruling says evaluation basically does not impact the Class of 2009; laws can't be retroactive. The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is developing criteria for a common grade point average.

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❖ <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/opinions/opinions/50abbott/op/2008/htm/ga-0656.htm>)

- There was a great presentation on World Geography from the teams working on assessments.
- NCEE is being held in Biloxi, MS: Tim Shanty and Houston area residents may be busy with property issues.
- TSSSA/TCSS is in San Antonio next month.
- NCSS is in Houston in November.

Questions and Announcements

- TAKS M: When would there be TAKS-M samples?
 - They are there on TEA website. (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/taksm/index.html>, scroll down to Sample Items.)
 - Rosemary is pleased that curriculum is included in reviews in all areas; Julie and Rosemary will be serving on committees for assessment items for TAKS-M.
 - Is there any analysis of TAKS-M and TAKS-Alt? Not yet; Rosemary wants to do a longitudinal study of TAKS since 2003 and look at the other TAKS for information.
- Science TEKS revisions are on schedule; social studies will likely follow their model. A rough version of the new science TEKS have been drafted. The committee wants the field to see what has been done thus far and get feedback for future direction before submitting a formal draft to SBOE. The discussion and first reading will likely take place at the November meeting; then there will be 30 days for public comment, with a final adoption anticipated at the March 2009 meeting. They still need to add CRS to their TEKS. They did not use an outside facilitator.
- Is there a blueprint for US EOC? Not yet; drafts of standards are to be assessed. Rosemary will get an answer by TSSSA/TCSS in San Antonio.
- Tina Melcher from Round Rock: Registration for TSSSA in October 2008 in San Antonio is ongoing. The spring conference is March 26-27, 2009 in Austin.