

**Social Studies TETN Notes**  
**May 28, 2009**

*(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.)*

Rosemary Morrow led the TETN, which started at 10:00 a.m. Julie Brelsford, Assistant Director of Social Studies, was also present.

**Kerry Ballast, Assistant Director of ELAR, gave an update on Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA):** <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/tala/>

- TALA is a wonderful opportunity to get teachers into training this summer.
- It is intended to help all middle school students in all content areas with the intent to teach all students new and unfamiliar vocabulary; areas of literacy include main idea, summarization, and note-taking in all classes, reaching across all content areas.
- Teacher attendees to the summer trainings will get a stipend \$125 for 1½ days of face-to-face training.
- They will return in the fall and complete online training for another \$125 if funding comes through this legislative session as planned – will know June 1<sup>st</sup> for sure once budget has been set
- One region center is using this process to help teachers continue the training in the fall. As teachers attend the first round of TALA, they are asked to fill out a postcard with return address information. The postcard will be used to notify participants in the fall when the online component is ready.
- Rosemary Morrow thanked Kerry and said that what she has seen is wonderful and will be helpful for all students, especially those in social studies.

**Assessment Update:**

[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3282&menu\\_id3=793](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3282&menu_id3=793)

- Rosemary Morrow will send websites once this TETN is over.
- Today is last day for End of Course (EOC) administration window.
- TAKS tests will not be released until after the July 2009 administration.
- Early result show that student performance has improved.
- Brenda Tingle is the contact person for social studies assessment questions

**Personal Financial Literacy (PFL):**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/social/pflmaterials.html>

- The State Board of Education (SBOE) approved new PFL materials last week
- There was a fourth call for materials, and sixteen vendors either submitted or updated their materials. TEA compiled the list and presented it to SBOE. The board accepted the list as presented, and the list of vendors is available on the website.

**TEKS Review process:**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/TEKSReviewProcess0509.pdf>

- The SBOE met last week and reviewed the process for revising TEKS; the review process will now hold true for any content area that will follow us, such as PE and Fine Arts.
- The approved process was posted on TEA's website last Friday.
  - The main changes are in #5 – Six expert reviewers were appointed; their names are posted on TEA's website. Two SBOE members had to approve each person; the experts will look at the current standards and make recommendations from there.
  - The changes are spelled out in #6; the same TEKS committees will be coming back.

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- The committees' task should be to look more at a general course and not an AP course; CRS (College Readiness Standards) will be reviewed simultaneously with the TEKS.
- The review teams will reconvene in late July to evaluate the expert committee's work. A template has been created for this process. The first column will contain the original TEKS, the second column will detail the newly proposed TEKS statement, and the third column will record the justification for the change.
- There are nineteen total steps, and the process is on website.
- **Important Dates:**
- June 1 is the last day of the legislative session.
  - There may be a special session.
  - Both houses passed a resolution allowing students to serve as voting clerks.
  - The appropriations bill has not been finalized, as HB3 and SB3 are still unfinished.
- June 22-23 Social Studies College Readiness Standards (CCRS) Vertical Team
  - The team will meet; six public education personnel and four higher education personnel will review the CRS along with the TEKS, with the task to determine if the two documents align well, closely, or not much at all.
  - The TEKS review committees are set. Members who cannot attend on these dates will just miss that meeting; the SBOE may add somebody else if they wish.
- July 15-17 SBOE meeting
  - One item on the agenda will be CATE standards.
- July 28-31 Social Studies TEKS Review Committee Meetings
  - The committees will start with current TEKS, make necessary changes, and add justification for changes.
- September 7-11 Social Studies TEKS Revisions posted for informal feedback
  - Comments are open to anyone; Rosemary encouraged ESC consultants to ask districts and community people to participate so more input could be collected.
- September 17-18 SBOE meeting
- October 5-9 or 12-16 Social Studies TEKS Review Committee Meetings
- November 19-20 SBOE Meeting
  - Social Studies TEKS discussion; not voting, just a discussion item
  - Public testimony will be considered; the formal public testimony will be in January 2010.
- The SBOE will most likely meet during the third week in January.
  - They will discuss on Wednesday, hold a straw vote on Thursday, and conduct a final vote on Friday.
  - March dates will be critical because a second reading and final vote will likely take place at that time.
- Rosemary believes committee members have been notified both by email and snail mail about these dates.
- Region 10 asked about the work that has been completed so far. The teams will refer to the original TEKS; if teams want to use what they already have done, they can, but will need to justify whatever changes are proposed; everything is to be transparent and publicized.
- Online feedback on TEA's website (TEKS link for information) will start in September.

**Kudos – Retirements, Other Changes:**

- Imma Jeane Alexander and Amy Jo Baker are retiring.

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- Tina Melcher mentioned that the National Geography Bee winner from The Colony Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Announcements:**

- Send anything of importance to Rosemary, and she will include the information in her emails around the state.
- Each region was asked to share upcoming important events.
  - R16 – September 28 or October 14, Palo Doro Canyon joint Social Studies and Science field trip.
  - R15 – History trip to San Antonio during the second week in June; Holocaust, TALA and CSCOPE training; LRE; and cluster sites PDs in the fall.
  - R13 – July 13-14: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conflict in U.S. History; representatives from several Presidential Libraries will be there. U.S. History Institute, July 31<sup>st</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade American history teachers.
  - R11 – starting webinars including a review of Personal Finance Literacy; TALA training.
  - R10 – technology focused- interactive white boards, expect a couple of hundred people and will video; U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and video conference – 2½ day training The dates are November 5-7. Regions 1 and 4 will be involved with a one-day simultaneous training on November 6. Any school or ESC can tap into the video conference event. The event is not aimed at students, but for teachers. The participants will receive information about how to teach the Holocaust; Region 10 will store the video which can be accessed later. Rosemary mentioned a bill which is ready to be passed concerning teaching the Holocaust, which would be another support group for the already strong organization in Texas for Holocaust education.
  - R9 – TALA and local workshops are ongoing.
  - R4 – TALA, ELPS, conceptual approach to high school courses rather than traditional approaches with summer PD sessions. Rosemary said we are not currently implementing training on the ELPS. No training is currently available, but the social studies curriculum team is waiting for the new TEKS to be finalized. ESCs will be responsible for training in their regions.
  - R2 – TALA training, History Alive!, Bill of Rights seminar, ESCAPE – We are taking the show on the road and going to different clusters sites.
  - R1 – TALA, TxDOT Driving Right Side of Road, PASS Grant to Pennsylvania; Holocaust Event in November.

Rosemary said that as the school year winds down and the summer work starts, she knows that exciting professional development opportunities for teachers in the regions and beyond will take place.

**Other Announcements and Questions:**

- TEA is looking for resources that are not branded for students to use while home from school from storms or illness. They are looking for WG and WH; more Economic would be helpful. They already have lots of USH.
- Textbook review – when will it take place 2012-13, with textbooks in the classrooms as of the fall of 2013; TEKS review process is still on schedule. After the March SBOE meeting, a call will go out, probably fall of 2010, and publishers will have until 2012 to prepare for the textbook adoption cycle. SBOE in 2012 will determine which books are conforming or nonconforming; there has been some legislation for including electronic material, but it hasn't been finalized.
- Mid-cycle review specifically for AP – Psychology and European History at a publisher's request; unless someone from the field addresses the SBOE, there won't be any changes

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- Julie said to take care and have restful summer. Rosemary thanked everyone for tuning in; she requested feedback about whether we want more frequent TETN meetings, or should we keep the status quo of meeting only after SBOE meetings. Are there presentations/speakers we'd like to see or hear? She then thanked everyone again. "You're working in the field, making decisions on curriculum and textbooks, and I hope to see some of you at the TEKS review committee meetings." The next TETN will be in July, and Rosemary will be in touch with us later.

Follow-up information sent by email after the TETN:

**USEFUL LINKS:**

**Interpreting Assessment Reports:**

[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3282&menu\\_id3=793](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3282&menu_id3=793)

**Personal Financial Literacy Materials:**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/social/pflmaterials.html>

**Process for Review and Revision of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS);**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/TEKSReviewProcess0509.pdf>

**Expert Reviewers:**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/social/experts.html>

**TEKS Processes/Instructional Materials/College Readiness Standards (CRS)**

**Timelines:**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/TEKSTimeline051109.pdf>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>June 1</b>                           | <b>Last day of Legislative Session</b>                  |
| <b>June 22-23</b>                       | <b>Social Studies CCRS Vertical Team</b>                |
| <b>July 15-17 SBOE</b>                  | <b>Meeting</b>  |
| <b>July 28-31</b>                       | <b>Social Studies TEKS Review Committee Meetings</b>    |
| <b>September 7-11</b>                   | <b>Social Studies TEKS posted for informal feedback</b> |
| <b>September 17-18</b>                  | <b>SBOE Meeting</b>                                     |
| <b>October 5-9 OR<br/>October 12-16</b> | <b>Social Studies TEKS Review Committee Meetings</b>    |
| <b>November 19-20</b>                   | <b>SBOE Meeting (Social Studies TEKS Discussion)</b>    |