

Social Studies TETN Notes
July 22, 2009

(These are not official minutes of this meeting, only notes about the meeting.)

Rosemary Morrow led the TETN, which started at 10:00 a.m. Julie Brelsford, Assistant Director of Social Studies, was also present, along with Brenda Tingle, Coordinator, TEA Student Assessment.

After roll call, Rosemary welcomed Lisa Reninger, the new Region 19 specialist.

Agenda:

- Legislative Briefing Booking and House Bill 3 (HB3)
- Assessment Update
- College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)
- Personal Financial Literacy (PFL)
- Celebrate Freedom Week
- TEKS Revision Process
- Social Studies Timeline
- Questions from the Field and Closing Remarks

Legislative Briefing Book

- The Briefing Book is now posted on the TEA website:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5103>.
- TEA has been fielding numerous questions about HB3. At the present time, there are more questions than answers. TEA is awaiting the legal department's interpretation of the law, and answers will be disseminated as soon as they are developed: stay tuned.
- When visiting the link for the Briefing Book, look at the Volume #1 FAQ. A second edition of the FAQ will likely be published in the future.
- There is a letter to superintendents about HB3 on the website as well.

Assessment Update: Brenda Tingle

- Brenda thanked the participants for allowing her to talk to them.
- Just as there were many questions when the state transitioned from TAAS to TAKS, there are now many questions as the process of changing from TAKS at the high school to End of Course (EOC) begins.
- TAKS Release Plan:
http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/release_test_plan.pdf
 - According to HB3, only the primary administration of each TAKS will be released every third year. For 2009, only the April administration of the Social Studies TAKS will be released. (i.e., the July administration will not be released.)
 - During 2010 a set of TAKS items will be released, including 3-5 items per objective, grade level, and content area.
 - 2009 Released TAKS are available at
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3839&menu_id3=793:
- Changes to assessment:
 - Grade 3 Reading TAKS: Students in grade 3 are no longer required to pass TAKS Reading to be promoted. The Grade 3 Reading TAKS has been moved to the last week of April. One implication for social studies could be that since Reading TAKS will not be retested, there would be more time for social studies instruction during grades K-3.
 - Spanish TAKS: The Spanish versions of Grade 6 Math and Reading TAKS have been eliminated as of 2009-10.

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- TAAS Retest: HB3 eliminated TAAS retests as of 2009-10. Students who need to complete this requirement for graduation will now take the Exit TAKS for the assessments they still need to pass.
- End of Course (EOC):
 - http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3302&menu_id3=793
 - Assessments for grades 3-8 must be linked to EOC assessments and College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). The words “Higher, Deeper, Narrower” need to be defined (quote from CCRS). For social studies this requirement only applies to the Grade 8 test, since it is the only social studies assessment before the EOCs in high school. The prevailing thought for the other courses is that the questions might be linked to items found in the social studies skills strand.
 - For the next two years, HB3 says that “...the administration of EOC assessments to a sufficiently large sample of students will be conducted for the purpose of setting performance standards.” This language may mean that some districts/campuses will be required to take EOC field tests which are not yet required for graduation.
 - Standards for EOCs will be set by the Commissioner of Education, not the State Board of Education (SBOE); however, sufficient data must be collected in order for the standards to be set.
 - The 7th graders of 2009-10 will be the first class required to take EOCs rather than TAKS for graduation credit. In 2011-12, all EOCs will be up and running.
 - EOCs shall measure a student’s performance on College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). Skills items will connect in content areas: World Geography, Biology, Algebra II, and English III.
 - The passing standards for EOC are not yet known; however, the law does include this formula:

Cumulative score $\geq n \times$ passing scale score
Example: 6300 cumulative score = 3 X 2100 for all three social studies EOCs
 - The 0-100 scale in the law with references to scores of 60 and 70 has been deleted from the original law of 2007. The Commissioner will have to create some kind of scale score.
 - The Required High School Plan includes a stipulation that students perform satisfactorily on Algebra II and English III EOCs.
 - Students can retest on both EOCs and CCRSs if they do not earn the required scores.
 - EOCs will count as 15% of the final course grade.
 - The development of the EOCs will be the same as TAKS:
 - Focus groups (5-6 people) will review the entire curriculum.
 - Educator committees will review items.
 - Items will be administered as field test item, and data will be gathered.
 - The field test for World History will be administered in Spring 2011.
 - Schools may volunteer to participate in one or more field tests:
 - A three-week window will be given to administer the tests.
 - The test may be given to the entire district, one or more campuses, or by an individual teacher to one or more classes.
 - The test is designed to take about two hours but is untimed. Feedback has indicated that students took 30 minutes or less to complete the World Geography field test given on May 1, 2009.
 - Students who participate in the field test must be enrolled in and complete the course in order to take the EOC field test.

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- The raw scores and performances by objective will be reported in the August following the test administration.
- The preliminary data report on the U.S. History EOC, which is being administered only to volunteer schools at this time, includes a 68 question exam, a mean raw score of 36, and a mean percentage of correct responses of 53%.
- Educators are encouraged to complete an Educator Recommendation Form, available online, and send the form to Pearson.
(<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/develop/recform.pdf>)
- Brenda took questions from the field. The following items were discussed.
 - The field test data for the World Geography EOC will be available on the website in August.
 - The implementation of the requirement for EOC scores counting 15% of the whole course is a district decision.
 - The World History EOC field test will be administered in Spring 2011. The test will be required for graduation credit in Spring 2012.
 - The Information Books for EOC will become available in the future, but the dates are not yet established. Typically between the first and second year of the test administration the Information Books are published. There is information available on the EOC website:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3302&menu_id3=793.
 - A question was posed concerning the effect of the TEKS revisions on the EOC development. The EOC is currently based on the TEKS now in place with the idea that those TEKS will not be significantly changed. We'll need to have a transition team review the student expectations that didn't change. For now there is no specific plan in place; stay tuned.

College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS): <http://www.txccrs.org/>

- The CCRS Vertical Team met in Austin in late June. Six representatives from public education and four representatives from higher education were included.
- Rosemary Morrow will send out a notice when the CCRS information is ready.
- The TEKS and CCRS match up pretty well with only a few gaps. The TEKS revision committees will review these standards when they reconvene next week in Austin.

Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) Materials:

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

- More resources were added to the list of PFL materials by the SBOE in May.
- The twelve PFL items will be incorporated into the Economics course once the TEKS revision is completed.
- Rosemary Morrow is still getting calls from legislators, principals, and superintendents about whether or not PFL standards are incorporated into the curriculum. The 77th Legislature mandated those standards.

TEKS Revision Process

- Expert feedback on the current social studies TEKS revision draft is available online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/socialstudiesTEKS.html>.
- Information regarding the social studies TEKS revision process is available at the same website.
- The revised SOBE process for the review of TEKS is available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>
- The TEKS revision committees will meet again next week; the same people meet each time, and all content areas will be attending this event.

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- Rosemary Morrow encouraged people to provide feedback; it is critical to have a voice in the process.
- The final decision for the TEKS revisions is up to the SBOE, not the committee members.

Social Studies Timeline: The following outlines the timeline for social studies events in Texas. See <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/teks/TEKSTimeline051109.pdf> for more information.

- January 2009: Grades K-8 TEKS review committees met.
- February 2009: High School TEKS review committees met.
- April 22, 2009: Committee instruction work session was held.
- June 2009: Expert reviews on the current TEKS and recommendations provided.
- September 2009: Expert review of draft TEKS available.
- September 2009: SBOE update on expert review available.
- October 2009: K-2 TEKS review conducted.
- November 2009: SBOE discussion held, as well as public hearing and comment opportunities, without voting.
- January 2010: Public hearing, first reading, and filing conducted.
- February 2010: Proposed revised TEKS posted for official public comment on the Texas Registry.
- February 2010: Public hearing conducted on proposed revised TEKS.
- March 2010: Second reading and adoption by SBOE.
- Following March 2010 SBOE meeting: Vertical CCRS teams will look for free online resources for students and teachers to use during school year 2011-12. (Social studies has more online resources than other content areas.)
- Spring/Summer 2010: Professional development session for the new TEKS will be conducted. TEA will put out an RFP for someone to develop the training materials.
- 2010-2011: Call for Proclamation 2013 after social studies TEKS are adopted.
- Fall 2011: Implementation of revised social studies TEKS and online CCRS materials.
- 2012: Materials review committees will convene to review publisher submissions.
- 2012: Schools will review materials for Proclamation 2013.
- Fall 2013: Instructional materials available in classrooms from Proclamation 2013. (Note: ELA was not totally funded, so "stay tuned" about Proclamation 2013 and social studies textbooks and materials.)

Announcements: If you wish to join a TEA listserv, visit the following website:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/list>.

Questions from the Field and Closing Remarks:

- Look at higher education coordination board website for CCRS. For social studies we will include them as the writing teams are working. <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/>
- Today's PowerPoint file will be sent to the ESC consultants.