

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 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.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Roll Call
- HB 3 Graduation Requirements Update
- Assessment Update
- Social Studies TEKS Review
- Social Studies TIMELINE
- Announcements
- Closing Remarks

HB 3 Graduation Requirements Update (House Bill 3)

- Go to <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation.aspx> for information about changes to the graduation plans.
- Take special note of the FAQs, versions I and II, and the side by side graduation programs.
- Check periodically for updates.

Assessment Update

- Brenda Tingle was not able to attend.
- Check "What's New" on the website at least weekly to stay abreast of Assessment Division information.
- End of Course (EOC) mandatory tests and field tests are ongoing.
- A letter went out to superintendents dated September 2, 2009. It was entitled "2009-2010 Field Testing and Related Activities" and can be accessed online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/studassmt090209.html>.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting

- The SBOE meeting held September 16-18 was broadcast online and is archived at <http://www.texasadmin.com/cgi-bin/tea.cgi>. September 17 included updates on Social Studies TEKS revisions.
 - Five of the six reviewers were present and testified before the SBOE. Dr. Dreisbach had a previous commitment and was unable to attend. Reviews of both the current TEKS and the draft TEKS are posted on the TEA website.
 - Experts' testimonies: names and links to their reviews:
 - David Barton, President, WallBuilders
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)
 - Jesus Francisco de la Teja, Professor and Chair, Department of History, Texas State University
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)
 - Daniel L. Dreisbach, Professor, American University
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)
 - Lybeth Hodges, Professor, History, Texas Woman's University
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)
 - Jim Kracht, Associate Dean and Professor, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)
 - Peter Marshall, President, Peter Marshall Ministries
[Review of Current Social Studies TEKS](#)

Social Studies TETN Notes September 24, 2009

- Representatives from each TEKS review committee reported the work they had done. The board members asked questions and made suggestions for further work. The committees will meet again in October to continue work on the TEKS revisions.

Social Studies TEKS Review

- October 15-17, 2009: Committees will reconvene for continued work on the TEKS revisions:
 - Elementary
 - Middle School
 - High School
 - Expert reviewers have been invited to attend and participate.
 - A question came up about the expert reviewers. Six people were chosen by the SBOE; there could have been seven, but three board members did not propose anyone.
- You may have heard news about the Christmas story question; Marcy Deal handled the issue in a humorous way.
- The Board released press statement on Friday that Christmas and Rosh Hashanah will be put back into the TEKS. The press statement can be found at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6448>)
- Most of the discussion of the Social Studies TEKS occurred on Thursday, September 17.
 - The full board met on September 16 for CTE and graduation issues.
 - The committee of the full board met on September 17 and heard testimony from the reviewers and review committee representatives on the Social Studies TEKS. There was good feedback and comments for committee members to consider as they meet again. It was appropriate that the focus was on Social Studies TEKS on Constitution Day.
- The time for feedback is now; the deadline for comments to the committees is October 9. Today Rosemary's office received many emails to enter into the report. Before October 9 is good. Districts or campuses may consider meeting during a professional development day as a group to provide feedback. If you are working together as a group, it is fair to list all names in the correspondence.
- Reporting of comments does not include names or locations/districts, but does include if that person is currently a Texas teacher. Include that identity in your emails.

Social Studies TIMELINE

- July 2009: K-12 TEKS review committees
- August 2009: Draft TEKS posted for informal feedback
- August 2009: Expert review of draft TEKS
- September 2009: Invited testimony from experts and review committee representatives at SBOE meeting
- October 15-17, 2009: K-12 TEKS review committees meet to continue work. (You are welcome to speak to committee members about the TEKS revisions. One way is through the email address.)
- November 2009: SBOE discussion
 - Anyone can sign up to testify; must sign up before deadline.
 - Get permission from your district or take a personal day. The board members might ask why you are not in class that day.
 - Testimony is normally 3 minutes, but the board chair can limit if many people are signed up to speak.
 - Legislators have priority over non-elected officials.

Social Studies TETN Notes September 24, 2009

- Bring thirty printed copies of your testimony to distribute.
- Be prepared to sit most of the day.
- The voice of the social studies educators should be heard as much as other people's voices.
- January 2010: First reading and filing
- February 2010, proposed revised for official public comment
- March 2010: Second reading and adoption
- Committees will likely be finished with their work in October and not meet again. The TEKS will then be in the hands of the SBOE.
- TEKS can change at any time up to the time it is finalized on the day the board votes. Stay up with the process all along the way.
- Spring/Summer 2011 and ongoing: Professional development on new TEKS
- Fall 2011: Implementation of new TEKS
- Spring 2011: Call for Proclamation 2013
 - Proclamation 2012 was scheduled to be issued for science in the spring 2009, but the SBOE has not submitted a call.
 - The SBOE worked on how to accommodate Proclamations 2010 and 2011 with \$40 million shortfall. These Proclamations are for math and English/language arts.
 - As a result we don't know if Proclamation 2013 will stay on schedule or be delayed.
 - The legislature will meet again in 2011, and we will know about funding for Proclamation 2013 at that time.
- Current textbooks and TAKS/EOC will reflect current TEKS until changes are made.
- There is more time to implement (College and Career Readiness Standards) CCRS to provide more rigor in what we are doing.
- Summer 2012 review instructional committees: Volunteer to participate in review committees.
- Fall 2012: SBOE adoption of instruction materials for Proclamation 2013
- Fall 2013: New materials implemented

Questions from the Field and Closing Remarks:

- Today's PowerPoint file will be sent to the ESC consultants.
- Are the EOC timelines still in place? Yes.
 - Be sure to look at the letter Julie mentioned 9/2/09 including U.S. History EOC mandatory field testing because standards not yet set.
 - There will be more World Geography EOC testing this spring.
 - World History EOC is not out yet. In Spring 2011 the World History EOC field test will be administered for the first time. Then the World History EOC will be required the following year. Rosemary does not know how that will happen. Some freshmen will be in the World History class the first year the test counts.
 - You can volunteer to have your students take the World Geography EOC. Encourage people in your districts to sign up for review committees. It has been difficult to get enough people to come to a review meeting, and the test writers want new faces. The forms go to Pearson and are available online here: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/develop/recform.pdf>.

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 2009

- Eighth graders will still take TAKS. Brenda mentioned last time that TAAS is phasing out and students who need to pass a TAAS for graduation must pass the corresponding TAKS instead. TAKS will phase out later at high school but will be around for a few more years. College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) will be included in the TEKS and EOC standards as determinations are made about various contents in social studies and science. ELA and math are more skills oriented. This year's 7th graders will be the first group impacted by required EOCs.
- Join the listserv for information going out to districts/superintendents. That is helpful, as it may be months before those letters filter down to you. Anyone can sign up on TEA's website (<http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/>, select "To The Administrator Addressed Correspondence")
- A teacher and her district had a question about required Bible literacy. They are concerned about legal issues. What guidelines and restrictions should be followed when implementing Bible literacy in the social studies curriculum?
 - Information about Bible literacy appeared in an FAQ on the old website; it is now hard to find. Rosemary will send the link. (The link is <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/BibleLiteracyFAQ1008.pdf>.)
 - There is no easy answer to this question. Addressing the history and literature of the Bible is a local decision to be determined by local district policy makers and their legal departments. TEA cannot make a call for an individual district.
 - Some districts have included Bible literacy in the World History and World Literature courses. Each district can look at their curricula to see if Bible literacy is being addressed and in what areas.
 - Implementation this fall is required. Lack of clarity in the community does exist. Some districts have not yet made their decisions; some made decisions this past summer.
- Are Education Service Centers (ESCs) required to have Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) workshops? Not at the moment.
 - There was legislation that passed the Senate, one piece of which passed into to law. TEA has not received direction to do anything at the education service center level to provide that training.
 - A pilot was conducted four years ago, and a report was published. Members of the legislature all understood that was a one-time event.
 - PFL is already set to be implemented into the revised Economics TEKS. The current draft is considerable change; one-third of the course is Economics, one-third is PFL, and one-third is skills.
 - This course along with Psychology, Sociology, and Special Topics has different strands from the other Social Studies courses. Economics sits in its own chapter. Rosemary doesn't know if Economics move to the Social Studies curriculum or stay by itself.
 - There are 63 materials approved by the SBOE for PFL; some are older, some are newer, and some were approved this spring. Instructional materials for Proclamation 2013 should include PFL.
 - Rosemary will keep us informed if any training will be required by ESCs and information from a new pilot.

Social Studies TETN Notes September 24, 2009

- Will Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for TEKS Revision professional development sessions be published? Yes, but nothing is known yet. Math and ELA have done their TEKS revision professional development sessions, and science is working on their sessions now.
- When you send today's PowerPoint to the ECS contacts, could you include future days for TETNs? There is only one more this year (November 24, 10 a.m.-12 noon). The dates for SBOE meetings have been set for next year, and Rosemary will plan on the Social Studies TETNs to be scheduled on the Thursday after each meeting if possible. (SBOE meeting dates: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3703>.)

Announcements: Reports from each ESC:

- Region 18: Training on closing the achievement gap, attending Social Studies ELPS meeting at Region 20 (Rosemary said a ELPS focus group was meeting in Austin on that day.)
- Region 17: Busy like everyone, getting better at doing this after two years
- Region 14: Working with new grantees with Teaching American History (TAH) grant
- Region 13: Wrapping up current TAH next week, took final trip NY to see FDR's library
- Region 12: Second year of TAH grant, received second TAH grant, working on recruiting teachers, and responsibilities other than social studies, providing workshops as requested by districts
- Rosemary encouraged ESC contacts to remind each other about TAH grants and what is available to each other at the October 28 meeting in Dallas.
- Region 11: full schedule including American Trustees, Center for Texas Studies, Hemisphere; the CTE consultant at Region 11 paired with her and conducted a one hour webinar on PFL as a prelude to workshops done later (Rosemary commented that we can offer PFL sessions even though it is not required at this time.)
- Region 10: statewide Holocaust video conference in November (Rosemary commented that there was legislation this year establishing a Holocaust advisory committee in addition to the existing partnership with the Holocaust organizations.)
- Region 9: workshops, visiting campuses, everything going great
- Region 7: busy fall, PFL workshop, several G/T and Social Studies sessions together with literature, Hemispheres group, National Archives from Fort Worth
- Region 4: Third Annual Region 4 Social Studies Conference, World Geography project with coming publication, World Geography summer academy, ELPS publication called "Embedding the ELPS with Es" based on the ELPS and 5E model, TAH grant just concluded
- Region 3: busy with other things we do besides social studies, local historical commissions (third year at ESC), finding out what teachers want versus to what districts want. He was canceling sessions now turning people away.
- Region 2: Additional feature Mentoring Plus: pair a consultant with a teacher, very popular, turning some people away (Rosemary commented that the funding for professional development includes follow-up to see how the professional development is being implementing.)
- Region 1: Tying up loose ends on one TAH grant, year 3 of second one; new event is Distinguished Lecture series on three Saturdays, historians across the state on the borderlands, inviting community as well

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 2009

Other Information:

- On October 3, two events will take place: Hemispheres in Austin and a Latino symposium with Korean War Hispanic Vets.
- Plan to be in Dallas in October; Rosemary and Julie will be there if they are approved to travel and will share updates with the ESC consultants and TSSSA.
- There was one final please for feedback on TEKS drafts from teachers.
- Rosemary thanked those who attended the video conference for tuning in. Please let her or Julie know if you have questions or need clarity for some of the things said today.