

## **Social Studies TETN Notes January 31, 2012**

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

Julie Brelsford, Statewide Social Studies Coordinator, welcomed participants to the TETN, which started at 1:10 p.m.

### **Agenda:**

- State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting report
- Assessment update
- ELL Portal and TELLIT courses
- Questions from the field

### **SBOE Meeting Report**

- The Math TEKS Revisions were passed at first reading and will be posted for 60 days of public comment around February 17; second reading and final adoption are expected April 20, 2012. The State Register website is <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>.
  - Based on a new instructional materials adoption schedule approved by the board on Friday, the new math TEKS, if given final approval by the board in April, would be used in kindergarten through eighth grade beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.
  - The high school courses will be implemented in the 2015-2016 school year, which correspond with new textbook adoptions.
- Social Studies is included in Proclamation 2015 for Instructional Materials.
- The board took no action, because the motion proposed would need to be adjusted to match the implementation language.
- Amendments regarding curriculum and graduation requirements received a second reading and adoption, with several amendments included.
  - Julie suggested listening to Friday's meeting archive online: <http://www.texasadmin.com/tea.shtml>.
  - Public testimony was given by several people.
  - The new graduation requirements will be implemented in the 2012-13 school year.
- Instructional Materials: Textbook adoption cycles coincide with implementation of Math TEKS. Proclamation 2015 will be issues for Social Studies. Materials will be reviewed in 2014-15, and materials will be implemented in 2015-16. Go to <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148> for details, which will be posted any day.

### **Assessment**

- TEA's Assessment staff is busy with meetings and conferences, and no one could attend today's TETN. However, Brenda Tingle said to contact her with any questions you have as we approach the first administration of STAAR. ([Brenda.Tingle@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:Brenda.Tingle@tea.state.tx.us), 512.463.9536)
- For a comprehensive document concerning the STARR and EOC tests, look at this document: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>, [Printable Document](#). This document is updated from time to time; new information is labeled with New icons.
- Special Education staff shared information with Julie concerning STAAR Modified, with many web addresses to pull up and review, included in last Assessment Listserv mailing. Helpful assessment resources are located <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/>, <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/special-ed/staarm>,

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and <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/special-ed/>. There is an Accommodations and Special Education Update PowerPoint from a recent TETN [here](#).

- Julie recommends you print out the Released Test Questions for STAAR-M and compare to Released Test Questions from the general administration.
- Contact Special Education if you have questions about alternative assessments: [cari.wieland@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:cari.wieland@tea.state.tx.us) or [assessment.studentswithdisabilities@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:assessment.studentswithdisabilities@tea.state.tx.us)

### ELL Portal: <http://www.elltx.org>

TELLIT courses now available for Social Studies. (<http://www.elltx.org/trainings.html>)

Contact your ESC staff responsible for Project Share to enroll.

Three courses are available:

- TELLIT: Social Studies Linguistic Learning Environment (2 hours)
- TELLIT: Social Studies Cognitive Learning Environment (2 hours)
- TELLIT: Social Studies Affective Learning Environment (2 hours)

Video vignettes to preview: <http://www.elltx.org/videos.html>.

Julie will send all the web addresses shared today to Social Studies Specialists through Project Share.

### Questions from the Field:

- Do participants go through Project Share to get to the TELLIT courses? The courses are within Project Share but participants must go through their ESC contact to enroll and get information. Each ESC has their own contacts, including both a content and a technology staff person.
- When will the passing standards for STAAR be announced? Julie said that some meetings will take place during the last of February or the first part of March to discuss the passing standards. She will look for more information and communicate it to the group.
- The next day for the Social Studies TETN conflicts with a state-wide conference for CSCOPE. Julie will check to see if the date can be changed.
- At a recent Assessment presentation, Brenda talked about terminology and vocabulary on STAAR; student should recognize commonly used synonyms for vocabulary in the TEKS. Are they open for assessment? Julie will have Brenda contact us for clarification.
- AP Human Geography is taught in many districts; how do they code that for PEIMS? AP Human Geography is coded as such.
- Districts are asking about the downside of changing the second half of American history (U.S. History Studies) to be taught in 9<sup>th</sup> grade rather than 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This change would provide more continuity between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade content. Does anyone have any information about districts that use that model?
  - Julie has not heard of any specific districts doing that; however, any sequence works with EOC tests since tests are taken with the course rather than with a specific grade level as with TAKS. No sequence is required by Education Code for high school courses to be offered.
  - Julie referenced a study that was conducted recently and while most districts offer social studies in a WG, WH, and US sequence, some do offer U.S. History in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It was more problematic under TAKS, but EOC does not present the same problem.
  - Region 7 said several districts in their service area offer U.S. History in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Region 3 has one district that has always done U.S. History in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and had pretty good TAKS scores; no other districts have switched but a number are interested as they look at what this district is doing. Julie anticipated some districts will switch.

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- Some offer concerns about conflicts with AP courses and when those tests are offered. Region 3 doesn't have much AP participation, but Jamie will check with the one district that does and see if that district has a report.
- Tom from Region 4 recently sent an email to ESC Social Studies Specialists about the AP Human Geography course and World Geography TEKS; the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education is developing a clarification between the two courses, including content overlap and significant differences between the two courses.
- Districts can teach the AP Human Geography course and award World Geography credit. However, it is important that both courses include instruction in all the World Geography TEKS. This year's ninth graders will take the World Geography EOC if they are taking the World Geography course or the AP Human Geography course. There is carryover content between state courses and AP courses. All TEKS need to be covered at the level and rigor as written. Julie agreed that it is important to prepare students in AP courses for the EOC tests. TEKS not on the AP Human Geography course must be taught.

The meeting ended with no further questions or discussion.