

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 2014

(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 1:00 p.m. Also in attendance were Kate Loughrey, Statewide Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) Coordinator, and Chris Dolejs, TEA English/Social Studies Manager.

Agenda:

- Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), Kate Loughrey, Statewide TxVSN Coordinator
 - State Board of Education (SBOE) Update
 - Other Announcements
1. Kate Loughrey, Statewide TxVSN Coordinator, Texas Virtual School Network:
Kate.Loughrey@tea.state.tx.us
 - a. A state-led online learning initiative has been created by the Texas Legislature and administered by the TEA.
 - b. Region 10 in a partnership with Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) provides central operations and course reviews.
 - c. Courses are aligned to the TEKS and National Standards for Quality Online Courses (iNACOL). Courses must also meet accessibility requirements for students with special needs.
 - d. Two components of TxVSN courses include the following:
 1. A full time online school program, which allows seven public schools in the state to offer full-time online instructional programs to eligible public school students in Grades 3-12.
 2. The catalog offers supplemental high school courses for graduation. All districts can access the catalog at <https://www.mytxvsn.org/CourseCatalog.aspx>. Information about TxVSN courses include the following:
 - The online providers work in partnerships with schools.
 - The network serves as a clearinghouse of online courses from approved providers.
 - The TxVSN statewide course catalog provides access to supplemental courses.
 - Districts earn state funding for students who successfully complete a TxVSN course, regardless of whether the student is physically present on campus during instruction of the course or not present on campus. (Successful completion means the student received a minimum passing grade of 70 from the online teacher to earn credit for the course.)
 - Students register through their school districts and can take regular high school courses, AP courses, and dual credit courses.
 - The TxVSN catalog course providers include ESCs, eligible districts and open-enrollment charter schools, Higher Education Institutions, and – in the near future – will also include Nonprofit and Private Entities meeting eligibility requirements.
 - The catalog connects the providers and receiver districts. Providers supply instruction led by Texas-certified and appropriately credentialed teachers trained in best practices for delivering online instruction. Receiver districts provide local support to their students (mentoring students and monitoring their progress) during the courses.
 - All districts can offer these courses to their students.

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 2014

- All districts are required by law (TEC, Ch. 30A) to notify students and parents of TxVSN opportunities, at the same time and in the same way they inform them of local course offerings; adopt a local written policy that provides opportunity to enroll in TxVSN courses and send a copy of that policy to parents of each middle school and high school student, at least once per year; accept requests for enrollment except under certain circumstances allowed in the law; appoint a site coordinator; provide local support; transcript grades; and award credit.
- e. Benefits of courses available through TxVSN include the following:
 - Courses are aligned to the TEKS, iNACOL, and accessibility guidelines.
 - Available courses include Foundation and Enrichment courses for graduation plans.
 - Courses required for graduation
 - Additional enrichment curriculum course and courses for elective credit
 - Courses earning college credit
 - The courses can be used for various purposes such as credit recovery, dual credit, acceleration, and overcoming scheduling issues.
 - The courses provide more individual interaction.
 - Availability to the courses can increase graduation rate and decrease dropout rates.
 - Districts can expand course offerings available to students.
 - Courses are more self-paced, allowing students to go back over instruction and materials they find challenging or move ahead more quickly, as needed.
 - Some courses are offered at a traditional semester pace; others are offered at an accelerated pace.
 - There is equitable access for all students in the state to quality online teachers and courses.
- f. The cost is \$200-\$400/semester paid by school district for the first three year-long courses that are part of the student's normal course load. (Normal course load is seven credit hours per year)
- g. Districts can earn state funding for up to three year-long courses, or the equivalent (i.e., six semester courses) per student per school year.
- h. A district can decline to pay the course cost for more than three year-long courses, or the equivalent, for a student per year. (In other words, the district *may* pay for additional TxVSN courses but is not *required* to pay for TxVSN courses that go beyond three year-long courses, or the equivalent, that are part of the student's normal course load for the year.) If the student wants to take TxVSN courses beyond those for which the district is required to pay, the student may do so at his/her own expense. (Courses offered by the TxVSN in the summer semester are also considered to be beyond a normal course load.)
- i. IMA funds can be used to pay for TxVSN course costs.
- j. Federal grants and program funds, including Title funds, can fund TxVSN course costs, as long as it is not forbidden by the grant or program, and grant or program rules are followed.
- k. Local funds may be used to pay TxVSN course costs.
- l. State grant and program funds can be used, as long as it's not forbidden by the grant or program, and grant or program rules are followed. (Example: Technology grants can be used for Social Studies.)

Social Studies TETN Notes
September 24, 2014

- m. Website and contact information for the TxVSN are as follows:
- Website: <http://www.txvsn.org/> - The website has demonstrations from various courses and information about the providers.
 - TxVSN Help Desk: 1-866-938-9876
 - Email: txvsncentral@txvsn.org
2. SBOE Update
- a. There will be a work session on Oct 20th to discuss errors in Social Studies textbooks; it will be open to the public. For ordering and distribution: 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701, 512.463.9601.
 - b. Chapter 113 TEKS for Social Studies for Other Social Studies Courses: There is a proposed amendment that IB and AP courses must align to TEKS.
 - The amendment passed the first stage and is now going through a period of comment and review.
 - c. TEC113.56: AP Human Geography can be substituted for graduation credit for World Geography if it is a full year course; it will count as an elective if it is less than a full year, and students will receive only .5 credit.
 - d. Resolution about AP courses (non-binding)
 - The SBOE has asked the College Board to address concerns about APUSH.
 - College Board promised that they are coming out with new information to satisfy concerns about the APUSH test from the SBOE.
 - e. TEKS Review Update regarding the next adoption of TEKS:
 - Stakeholders are concerned about the TEKS being "mile-wide and inch-deep."
 - The SBOE discussed trainings to help with that concern.
 - The SBOE is discussing the next round of TEKS and working on standards that go deeper in the TEKS Revision Process.
 - The next legislative session will address some of the review updates.
 - f. The last SBOE meeting for the year is scheduled for Nov. 28th-31st. The Board will recognize National History Day (NHD) recipients.
 - g. SBOE 2015 Meeting Dates are as follows:
(access information on the TEA website:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=25769814582>)
 - Feb 11-13
 - April 15-17
 - July 15-17
 - Sept 9-11
 - Nov 19-10
3. Other Announcements
- a. State Conferences are scheduled at Moody Gardens in Galveston:
 - TSSSA: Oct 30th
 - TCSS: Oct 31st-Nov 1st
 - b. Chris Dolejs is the new English/Social Studies Manager at TEA.
 - c. Proclamation 2015 Approved Vendors
 - Email Kelly Callaway to get information on a list of approved vendors; Julie Brelsford will email attendees the approved vendor list.
 - (The proposed list is available here:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=25769814399&libID=25769814444.>)