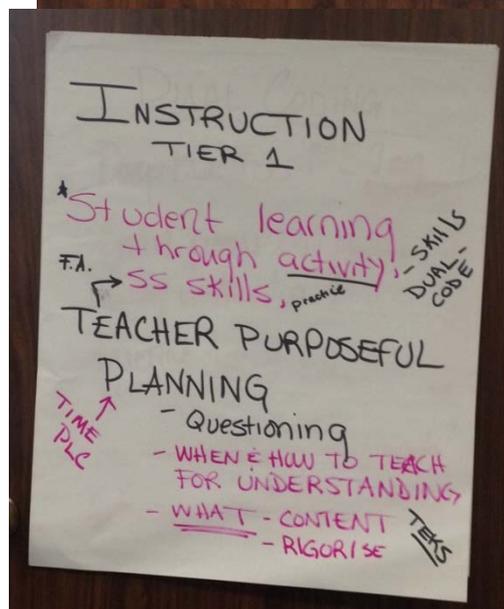
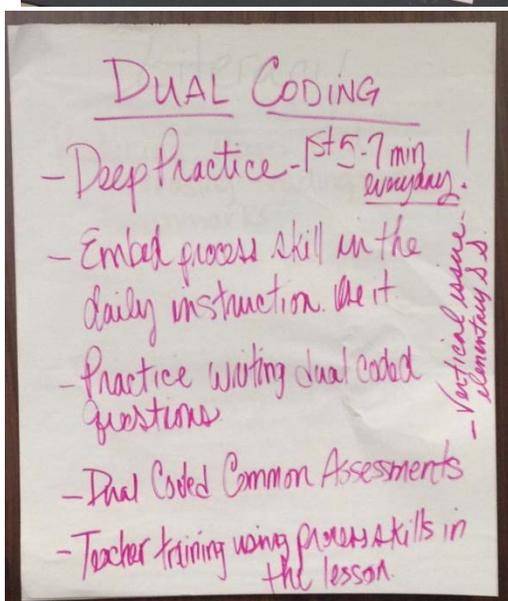
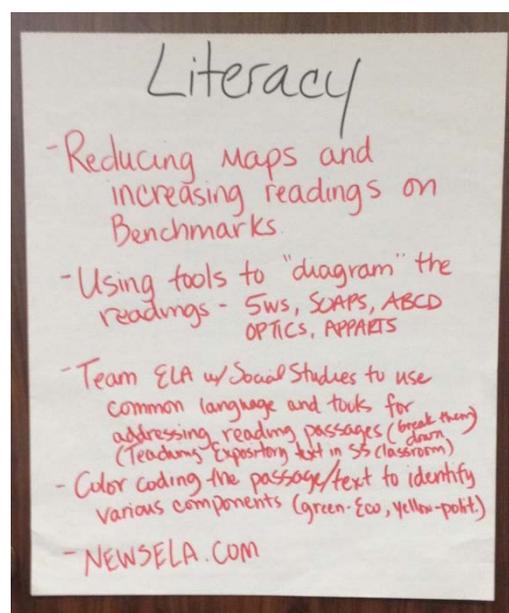
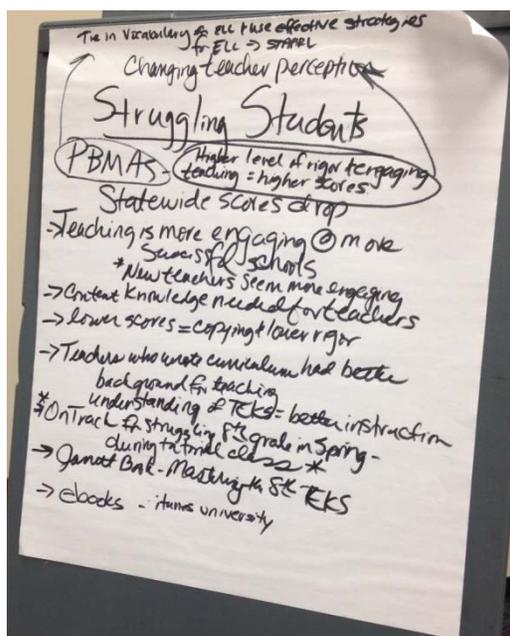


See [Agenda](#) and [Region 4 Social Studies website](#) for additional information

1. Introductions: There were 28 committee members from 26 districts, along with four Region 4 employees. Debbie Behling, Social Studies Specialist, introduced LaTonya Amboree, the newest Social Studies Specialist on the Region 4 team.
2. The TETN notes from the September 24, 2014 meeting were distributed via email earlier in the week and are posted on the [Region 4 Social Studies website](#). Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) and the State School Board of Education (SBOE) meeting were the topics addressed in the meeting, along with the introduction of the new TEA English/Social Studies Manager, Chris Dolejs. The following topics were shared from the SBOE meeting in addition to the TETN notes.
 - a. TEKS Revision process: The SBOE is considering changing the process for revising the TEKS, including more leadership from those who work with curriculum and understand the bigger picture, as well as scaling back the number of standards.
 - b. The proposed list of vendors for Social Studies Instructional Materials will be approved at the November SBOE meeting.
3. The new phase-in chart for STAAR[®] is available. Coordinators said they were aware of it; the only comment concerned skepticism about whether the rising cut-off levels would be implemented. A question was posed: What is our role in helping teachers?
4. STAAR[®]-A was discussed, and the available resources were explored.
 - a. STAAR[®]-A eligibility requirements are available here:
https://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urloblob&blobheader=application/force-download&blobheadertype=Content-Disposition&blobheadertype2=Content-Transfer-Encoding&blobheadertype1=attachment%3B+filename%3D%22TX_STAAR-A_Eligibility_Requirements.pdf%22&blobheadertype2=binary&blobkey=id&blobtable=BinaryData&blobwhere=1255059178281&ssbinary=true
 - b. An ARD amendment is required for eligible students to take the test.
 - c. Students do not have to use the exact digital testing format in classroom assessments to be eligible to take STAAR[®]-A.
 - d. Sample testing items are available on this website:
<http://www.texasassessment.com/administrations/STAAR-A/resources/>
5. Brenda Tingle has retired from TEA, and our new contact for assessment is Lynn Franzen, Lynn.Franzen@tea.state.tx.us, 512.463.9536.
6. Project Share is a continuing initiative from the state. The website now being used was run by Epsilon. This company went bankrupt, and the website is being managed by another organization throughout the current school year. TEA is working on a solution for the future, but the content on the website will continue to be available regardless of how the website situation is resolved.
7. LaTonya shared two documents available for supporting English-Language Learners (EL).
 - a. The first document is a new tool for supporting beginning and intermediate ELs. The ELPS Instructional Tool is available through a Trainer-of-Trainers (TOT) session, so attendees can turn the training around in their districts. The ELPS Instructional Tool is available at no cost for those who attend the training, which is also free.
 - b. The second document is the ELPS Linguistic Instructional Alignment Guide. This document is available to those who take the online training, which is also designed as a TOT. The training is available here:
<http://www.epsilen.com/crs/12112090>.

8. The Region 4 Social Studies Conference is open for registration, with a 20% discount for those who register before December 19, 2014. Presenters are also needed.
 - a. Registration: https://www.escweb.net/tx_esc_04/catalog/conference.aspx?conference_id=231538
 - b. Call for presenters: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1653724/Call-for-Presenters-Region-4-Social-Studies-Conference-January-24-2015>
9. The coordinators participated in an Open Space Mini-Conference, led by LaTonya. (The slides for conducting this meeting are on the [Region 4 Social Studies website](#).) Four topics were discussed: Literacy, Struggling Students, Instruction, and Dual Coding. Below are the chart papers from each group with their reflections and ideas on these topics. Region 4 has many new sessions to address these topics, as listed on page two of the agenda.



10. Last spring one hot topic of discussion was what districts were doing with sequencing high school courses. Corey Weiss from Sheldon ISD shared how their district had transitioned to offering U.S. History at 10th grade. Dual credit was negotiated with the local community college. Carmen Michaud from Channelview ISD shared how they arrange the courses: World History-9th, U.S. History 10th, Government and Economics in 12th for students who are not taking Pre-AP or AP courses; students taking AP courses take Pre-AP World Geography or AP Human Geography in 9th, AP World History in 10th, AP US History in 11th, and Government and Economics in 12th.
11. Some discussion was held about the AP US History course. Students still take the test when they take the course, and they can take the test without taking the course. Changes have been made to the course by the College Board, who is addressing concerns about alignment to state standards.
12. Kristi Thaemlitz, Region 4 Reading/Language Arts Education Specialist, shared information about Write for Texas. Resources are available for everyone on the Write for Texas website: <http://writefortexas.org/>.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2015, session [1072638](#).