



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

TTU K-12™

**30 YEARS & 500,000 STUDENTS LATER:  
SUCCESSFUL DISTANCE & ONLINE  
K-12 EDUCATION AT TEXAS TECH**

Texas Commission on Virtual Education

July 27, 2022

# AGENDA

- Overview of the TTU K-12 program
- Teachers
- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- Course Development





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# OVERVIEW OF THE TTU K-12 PROGRAM



# OVERVIEW

- TTU K-12 was established as a “Special Purpose District” in 1993 by the Texas Legislature and the State Board of Education to serve students whose educational needs were not adequately met by traditional school districts.
- In 2020, Texas added Texas Administrative Code §61.101 identifying TTU K-12 as a special purpose school district operated by a major university. The only other school that falls in this TAC chapter is UT High School.
- Since 1993, TTU K-12 has transitioned to a fully online program serving over 500,000 students from 71 countries around the world.
- Our rigorous college-ready curriculum serves Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and allows them to work ahead, make up failed credits, test out of courses, and graduate with a Texas High School Diploma.
- The only Texas high school to rank in the top 25 Online High Schools for 2022.
- Designated a Purple Star Campus for partnering to support military families.



**ANNUAL  
STUDENT  
POPULATION  
SERVED**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>APPROX. STUDENTS</b>
Full-Time Tuition Free Program for TX Residents (Est. 2021)	1,000
Full-Time Tuition Based Program	500
District Partnerships (Est 2021)	50
Supplemental Program	15,000
International Partnership Program	1,500
Credit By Exam (CBEs)	Avg. 25,000

# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Being a part of a Tier One University brings TTU K-12 access to all that a productive, research-oriented environment can offer.

- Instructional Design/Support
- Institutional Research/Data Analysis
- IT Support and high-quality infrastructure
- Faculty experts and leaders in Education, Curriculum & Instructional, Online Learning, and Student Development





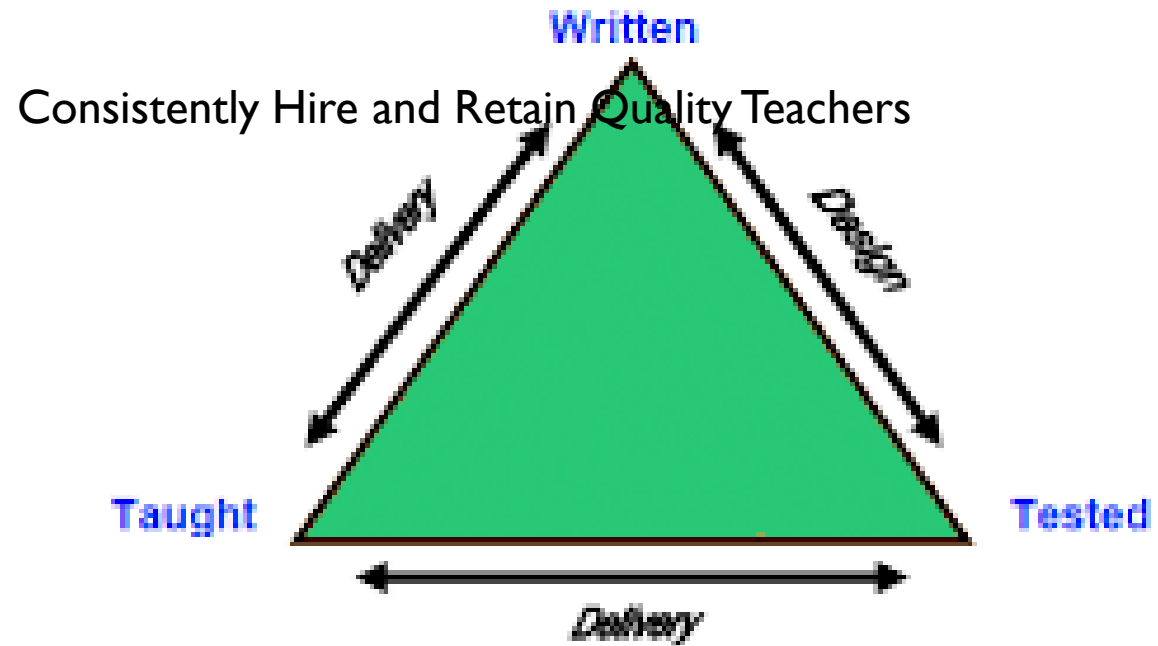
## TTU K-12 TEACHERS

- All Texas-Certified
- 8 Department Chairs (Full-Time)
- 53 Part-Time Teachers (.49 FTE)
- Consistently Hire and Retain Quality Teachers
- Average 20+ Years of Teaching Experience
- Average 7+ Years of Teaching Experience at TTU K-12 (Longest = 35 Years). Turnover Rate of 2% Per Year.
- Focal Point: Teaching. Responsibilities include providing quality feedback, grading, holding virtual office hours, tutoring, remediation, and providing special services as needed



# SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL PROGRAM: A GUARANTEED AND VIABLE CURRICULUM

## Curriculum Alignment Model





# SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL PROGRAM: QUALITY COURSES

## • TTU K-12 COURSES

- 225 Courses
- Advanced Placement
- Core
- Electives/CTE
- Remediation
- Resource

## TTU K-12 PROGRAMS

- Full-Time
  - Tuition-Free
  - Tuition-Based
  - International Partnerships
- Part-Time
  - Supplemental
  - CBE

# COURSE STRUCTURE

Completely asynchronous

- Start courses any time
- Self-paced

Fully aligned to Texas curriculum standards

Based on requirements for Texas HS diploma (Distinguished)

Full course curriculum K-12

- Advanced Placement
- Remediation
- Graduation Endorsement Areas

# COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Curriculum Development
  - Authors = Subject Matter Experts. Certified Texas Teachers with curriculum development expertise
  - TTU Instructional Designers
  - Courses designed to required state curriculum standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
  - TEKS are revised cyclically, and courses must be redeveloped with all TEKS revisions.
- Ongoing Support
  - Regular course revision and improvement
  - Professional development for teachers
    - LMS/SIS
    - Course content and structure
    - Online Pedagogy
    - Cybersecurity



Meet the standard



Plan alignment and course flow



Encourage interaction



Use focused activities and assessments



Provide for multiple learning styles



Make content accessible



Chunk the content

PEDAGOGY

## BEST PRACTICES FOR ONLINE LEARNING

Provide explicit instructions on all course content.

### LET STUDENTS KNOW:

- How to complete activities
- How to navigate the course
- When and how to interact with other students
- What teachers expect
- When and how to submit assignments
- When to expect a response from a teacher

# ADD HOLISTIC STUDENT SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Newsletters
- National Honor and Jr Honor Society
- Student Council
- Class Meetings
- Special-Topic Seminars
- Tutoring Sessions
- In-Person Graduation Ceremony
- Optional Summer Camps

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Advising and Counseling
- College and Career Readiness
- Testing
- Transcripts
- Communication with other schools
- Teacher office hours
- Teacher tutoring sessions
- Remediation, MTSS

## FAMILY VOICES

- “We get to make our own schedule, which is fantastic. That's what I love about TTU K-12. **We haven't missed out on anything, and we can get all of our coursework done.**” – Mom of a current TTU K-12 5<sup>th</sup> Grader and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader.
- “I can work on each class each day or if I have a project or paper, I can use my entire day to work on that subject. I can also work on things longer if I need more help. If I need to do extra work on a Saturday or Sunday, I can. **So far this is an amazing opportunity.**” – TTU K-12 Freshmen
- “We never considered distance learning or ‘school at home’ for our girls, but God had bigger plans for us, and we thought, ‘let’s just try it.’ This way of schooling also helped our family as we travel for business. **The ease of picking up school when and wherever we are made it fun and adventurous.**” – Mom of 3 (soon to be 4) TTU K-12 students





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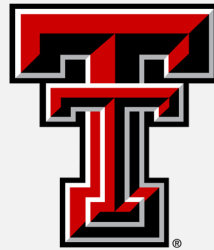
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### Leadership Team

- Justin Louder, EdD – Associate Vice Provost & Interim Superintendent
- Lisa Leach, EdD – Senior Director, Curriculum & Instructional Design
- Cari Moye, MEd – Principal, TTU K-12
- Braxton Allison, MEd – Assistant Principal, TTU K-12
- Kelly Brownfield, MEd – Special Programs Director, TTU K-12
- Cary Sallee – Senior Director, Operations
- James Day, MS – Director, Technology Support & Operations
- TTU K-12 Teachers:
  - Brooke Longbrake (ELAR Department Chair)
  - Lindsay Yost (Elementary)



THANK YOU



[K12.TTU.EDU](http://K12.TTU.EDU) | [TTUK12@TTU.EDU](mailto:TTUK12@TTU.EDU)