

Social Studies Newsletter



Thank you for subscribing to the TEA social studies newsletter.

This issue of the TEA social studies newsletter provides information on the following topics:

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Crosswalks for Social Studies TEKS

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted revisions in 2022 to the social studies TEKS that reflect the requirements of Senate Bill 3 from the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2021. The revisions update the standards for Kindergarten–Grade 8 and five high school courses. The grade level/course crosswalks provide a summary (example below) of the TEKS revisions and show the differences between the 2018 TEKS and the 2022 TEKS that are to be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year. The crosswalks for each grade level/course can be found in the “Social Studies TEKS to Be Implemented in 2024-2025” section of the [TEA Social Studies Web Page](#).

WORLD HISTORY STUDIES, CROSSWALK FROM 2018 TEKS to 2022 TEKS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024-2025

World History Studies, TEKS Revisions Implemented in 2024-2025 School Year

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted revisions in 2022 to the social studies TEKS that align with legislative requirements passed in the 87th Legislature. The revisions update the standards for Kindergarten– Grade 8 and five high-school courses. For more information related to the social studies TEKS revision and implementation, please visit the [2021-2022 Social Studies TEKS Review web page](#).

New Standards Added for Implementation in the 2024-2025 School Year

(30) Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to:
(D) apply foundational language skills to engage in civil discourse about social studies topics, including those with multiple perspectives

(31) Social studies skills. The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others. The student is expected to:
(A) explain governmental and democratic processes such as voting, due process, and caucuses using simulations and models

Revised Standards for Implementation in the 2024-2025 School Year

(28) Social studies skills. The student understands how historians use historiography to interpret the past and applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including technology. The student is expected to:
(D) evaluate a variety of historical and contemporary sources for validity, credibility, bias, and accuracy
(F) formulate and communicate visually, orally, or in writing a claim supported by evidence and reasoning for an intended audience and purpose

Renumbered Standards for Implementation in the 2024-2025 School Year

(31) Social studies skills. The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others. The student is expected to:
(B) use problem-solving and decision-making processes to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.

Instructional Materials Review and Adoption (IMRA) Reviewers

We are now accepting [applications](#) for the upcoming [IMRA review](#). Anyone with relevant content expertise for K–5 English and Spanish language arts and reading, K–3 English and Spanish phonics, or K–12 mathematics is encouraged to apply. This work includes a competitive stipend and reimbursement for any travel expenses. Learn more about IMRA, the review cycle, and the available roles through an information session. (Note: You can read more about the opportunity in the 02/15/2024 [To the Administrator Addressed correspondence](#).) [Fill out a registration form](#) to join a meeting on one of these dates:

- March 20
- April 3
- April 17
- May 1

2024-2026 Interactive Online Learning Grant, Cycle 1

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is providing a competitive grant opportunity to award funding to support the implementation of an effective cross-curricular interactive online learning model(s) in middle school and/or high school for instruction in English language arts and U.S. history and/or Texas history.

All school districts and open enrollment charter schools have the opportunity to apply for funding to support the implementation of an interactive online learning model(s) in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

The 2024-2026 Interactive Online Learning Grant, Cycle 1 application is available on the [TEA Grants Opportunities](#) web page.

Key Dates

| Date | Timeline Events |
|------------------|---|
| March 5, 2024 | Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) application available window opens |
| March 12, 2024 | Last day to submit FAQs to TEA contact person |
| April 4, 2024 | IDC application due by 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
| May 16, 2024 | Anticipated award announcement |
| May 17, 2024 | Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) |
| August 1, 2025 | Status report due |
| February 2, 2026 | Final report due |
| April 30, 2026 | Ending date of grant (if selected for funding) |

Program Contact

If you have any questions, please email Eric Fredrickson at eric.fredrickson@tea.texas.gov. All questions received will be answered through a separate frequently asked questions document and posted to the [TEA Grants Opportunities](#) web page on March 21, 2024.

Social Studies Timely Topic: *Texas History Month and Women's History Month*

To support Texas social studies educators and stakeholders, the social studies newsletter will occasionally highlight a question and response focused on a timely social studies topic. This edition's timely topic focuses on Texas history and women's history in recognition of events throughout Texas' history and in honor of those Texan men and women who have helped shape the history of Texas.

Question: *"Where can I find some resources to support the teaching of Texas history and women's history?"*

[The Texas Women's Hall of Fame](#) housed at Texas Woman's University features the [biographies](#) and [photographs](#) of the more than 100 pioneering women who have left their mark on our great state.

[The Bullock Museum](#), a division of the State Preservation Board, provides resources to gain content knowledge or to create activities for your students to take a deeper dive into Texas history. To learn more, go to the [Bullock Museum Texas History Online](#) web page and the [Bullock Museum Education](#) web page.

[The Texas Historical Commission](#) (THC) is the state agency for historic preservation and provides free, downloadable resources for K-12 students and teachers.

[The Texas State Library and Archives](#) (TSLAC) preserves the archival record of Texas, supports research, and makes primary resources available to the public from their various [collections](#).

[The Portal to Texas History](#) is a digital gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas created and maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries.

Civic Learning Week: A Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Sonia Sotomayor

Now in its second year as a nationwide event, Civic Learning Week brings together students, educators, and policymakers to energize civic education across the nation. The week includes online and in-person events that focus on the civics knowledge and skills that can sustain and strengthen constitutional democracy and build civil discourse and understanding.

On Tuesday, March 12, at 12 noon (CT), U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Amy Coney Barrett will participate in a moderated conversation that will showcase their shared commitment to high-quality civic education and address student questions about the judicial system and civic engagement. The discussion will highlight civics education, knowledge, and skills, and why civics is essential to sustaining and strengthening constitutional democracy in the United States.

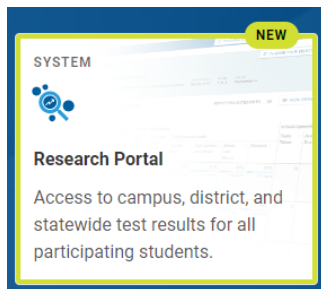
You can [register to watch](#) the live stream on Tuesday, March 12th or watch the replay on-demand.

Apply for Assessment Educator Committees

Each year the Texas Education Agency (TEA) invites Texas educators to provide feedback on the development of state assessments (STAAR, STAAR Alternate 2, and TELPAS) through educator committees across all assessed grades and content areas. Developing high-quality, aligned questions relies on the expertise and experience of Texas educators. Participants collaborate with other educators from across the state to review, edit, and approve each potential question for state assessments. TEA is specifically looking for educators from your region!

The commitment is generally two to three days in Austin with all travel, accommodations, and substitute coverage paid for by TEA. All participants will earn Continuing Professional Education credits. If you are interested or know other educators who would like to participate in a committee, fill out the application form here: <https://www.texasassessment.gov/educator-committees.html>.

Texas Assessment Research Portal



The [Texas Assessment Research Portal](#) is a public portal designed for users to generate reports for summary state assessment data. Data can be viewed and compared by state, region, district or campus, and further broken down by demographic groups. The portal can be accessed with a desktop, laptop, or tablet. It is not optimized for mobile phones.

Public Comment Invitation: Personal Financial Literacy Material

The [Substitutions and Content Updates web page](#) has been updated with a request from Ramsey Education to update content in its adopted Personal Financial Literacy material.

The public is invited to review and [comment on](#) the proposed content changes. (NOTE: If you experience difficulties downloading this form, [please check that Adobe is selected as your default PDF program](#). If you still have trouble opening the form, open your Downloads folder, right-click on the form, and select Open with and Adobe Acrobat.)

Please submit an Instructional Materials Help Desk [ticket](#) if you need assistance.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting, April 9-12

The next meeting of the SBOE will occur April 9-12, 2024. An [agenda](#) is published prior to each meeting. The TEA provides meeting [webcasts](#) for people interested in watching from a computer or device. archived webcasts are also available.

Updated Innovative Course Application Timeline

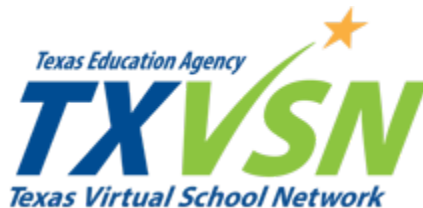
To benefit both innovative course applicants and LEAs (local education agencies) who wish to implement innovative courses, the timeline for future innovative course application cycles has been updated. The updated timeline is designed to provide additional time for the following:

- Applicants to complete applications
- Applicants to receive local board approval
- Applicants to complete course pilots and analyze data
- Districts and open-enrollment charters to plan for innovative course implementation

Courses that are approved will be available for implementation beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

The 2025-2026 application cycle for innovative courses opened on February 26, 2024. The complete innovative course application timeline is available on the [TEA innovative courses webpage](#).

The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) Can Help Meet Students' Social Studies Course Needs



Need help meeting a student's social studies course needs?

The [Texas Virtual School Network \(TXVSN\)](#) can help meet students' needs through TEA-approved online courses. The TXVSN statewide course catalog provides schools and students access to high school, Advanced Placement, career and technical education, and dual credit courses for initial credit or credit recovery. The [course catalog](#) provides fifteen unique social studies courses to help students meet their learning goals and graduation requirements.

The TXVSN courses are aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and taught by Texas certified teachers trained in best practices in online instruction. Schools can use the TXVSN courses to create flexibility in a student's schedule, allow a student to accelerate their learning, or address local teacher shortages. Students enrolled in a TXVSN course can generate funding regardless of whether the student is physically present at school while participating in the course. For more information about the courses offered through the TXVSN, please visit the [TXVSN website](#) or contact the TXVSN [Help Desk](#).