

The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern school building. It shows a wide, bright hallway with large windows on the right side, through which trees and a building are visible. In the foreground, a wide staircase with metal railings is visible, with several students walking up and down. The overall atmosphere is bright and active.

Innovative Courses Update

November 2023

Curriculum Standards and Student Support Division

Topics Included in This Webinar

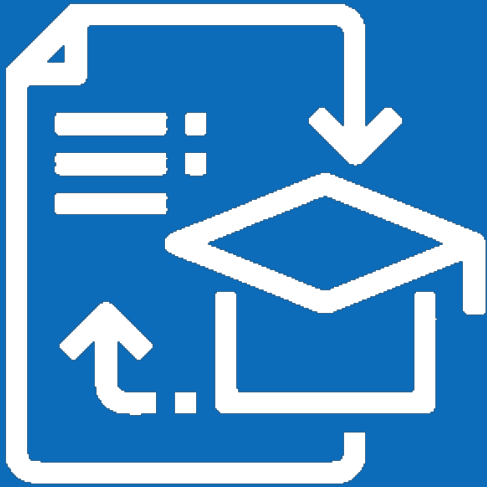
1. Refresher on innovative courses
2. The next innovative course application cycle
3. Recent rule changes for innovative courses



A Quick Refresher On Innovative Courses

(1)

A Quick Refresher About Innovative Courses



1. Part of State Board of Education (SBOE) process for courses that are not included in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
2. May only satisfy state elective credit for high school graduation
3. Require local board approval to implement (LEAs)
4. Are high school courses that are innovative in nature and meet student needs

The Next Innovative Course Application Cycle

(2)

The Next Innovative Course Application Cycle

JAN 17, 2024

Application materials for new innovative courses and renewals are posted

JAN - JUN 2024

Authors of courses requiring renewal will be contacted

FEB 26, 2024

Applications may be submitted starting on this date

SEP 13, 2024

All applications must be submitted no later than this date

JAN & APR 2025

State Board of Education (SBOE) approves or denies applications

JUL 1, 2025

PEIMS codes for the 2025-2026 school year are updated for LEAs

AUG 2025

Innovative courses approved by the SBOE are implemented by LEAs

Upcoming Application Webinars

- These webinars will—
 - provide guidance on completing the innovative course application;
 - answer common application questions; and
 - highlight best practices when completing the application.
- Registration links will be posted on the Innovative Courses webpage.
- The first session will be in February 2024.
 - Three additional sessions will be held in March, April, and May 2024.



Application Cycle Extenuating Circumstances

- Allows for approved courses to be implemented beginning in 2024-2025
- Requirements:
 - Course pilot complete prior to 2023-2024 school year (except for CTE courses [designated for a program of study](#))
 - Local school board approval to submit an application (LEAs)
 - Meet with TEA staff to be considered



Contact innovative.courses@tea.texas.gov no later than **Tuesday, December 5, 2023** to be considered.

Application Cycle Extenuating Circumstances, contd.

Information that will be required for extenuating circumstances:

- Course title
- Contact information
- Brief course description
- Pilot enrollment, location, and year(s) – except for CTE courses designated for a program of study
- Explanation of why the application should be considered an extenuating circumstance

Contact innovatives.courses@tea.texas.gov to be considered no later than **Tuesday, December 5, 2023.**

Rule Changes for Innovative Courses

(3)

Rules That Did Not Change - Innovative Course Applications

- Innovative courses do not duplicate TEKS-based courses.
- Applications include—
 - award of credit;
 - a description;
 - a justification;
 - pilot data (new courses);
 - recommended activities, resources, and assessments;
 - Texas teacher certifications; and
 - required trainings (with cost).
- Innovative courses require local board approval to submit an application.

Greater details regarding these applications requirements will be included in later presentations.

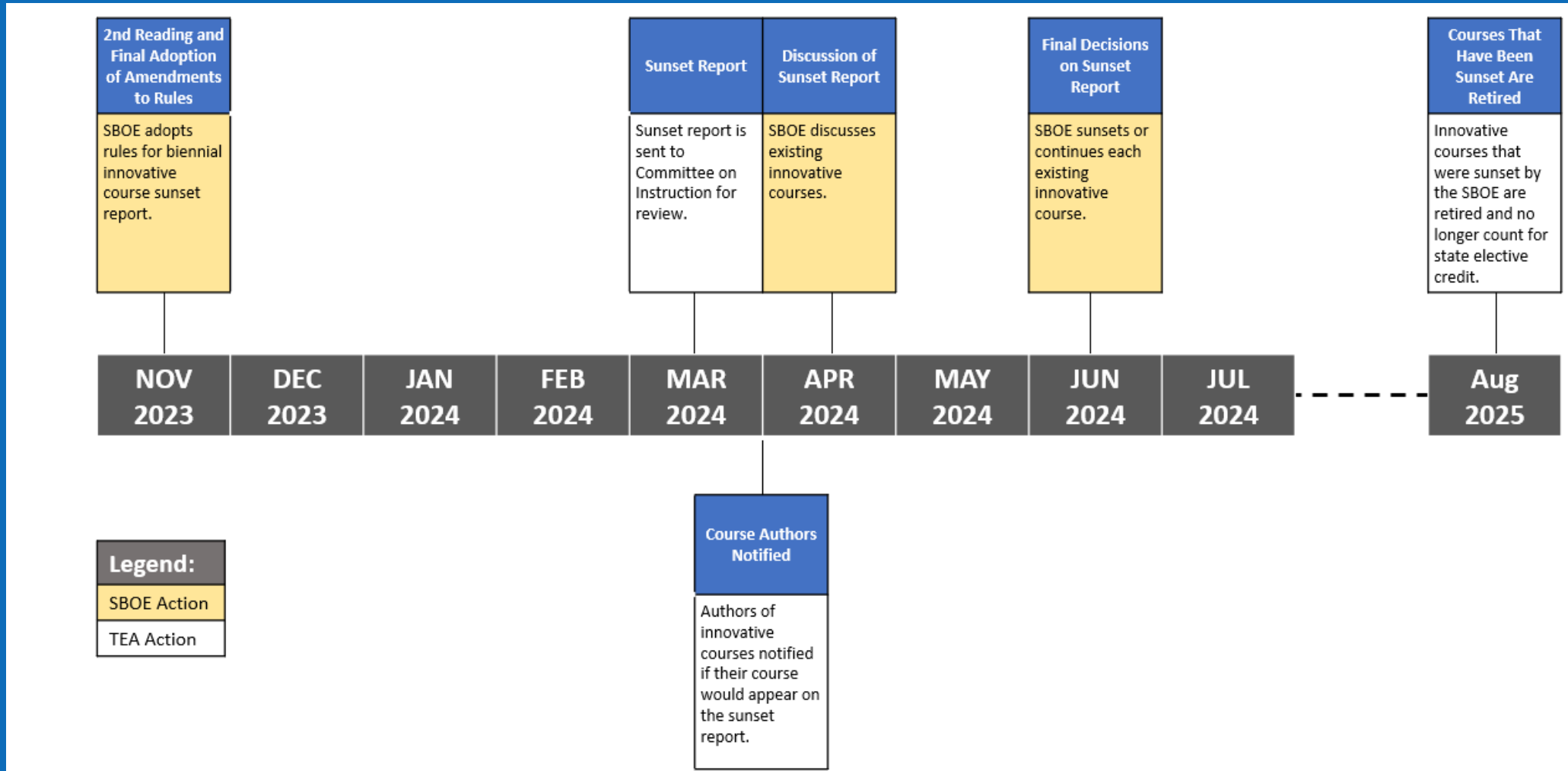
Recent Rule Changes for Innovative Course Applications

Previous Rules	Amended Rules
Courses approved by either SBOE or Commissioner of Education	All courses are approved by <u>SBOE</u> .
All new courses require a pilot	All new courses, <u>except for courses designated for a TEA-authorized CTE program of study</u> , require a pilot.
N/A	New courses are approved for three years and renewals for five years.
LEAs may offer innovative courses without modifications with the approval of their local board of trustees	LEAs may offer innovative courses without deletions with the approval of their local board of trustees.
N/A	All recommended resources must be submitted to TEA for SBOE review.

Biennial Sunset Review of Innovative Courses

- New requirement established by the SBOE
- Review occurs every two years
- For innovative courses that have been approved for at least three years and meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - zero enrollment for the previous two years
 - average enrollment of less than 100 students statewide for the previous three years
 - student enrollment at an average of fewer than 20 districts or charter schools statewide for the previous three years
 - duplicative of another innovative or TEKS-based course
 - approved for implementation as a TEKS-based course
- Outcome of review: SBOE decision to continue or retire each course

Biennial Sunset Review of Innovative Courses Timeline



In Summary

1. The next innovative course cycle opens in February 2024 for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year.
Extenuating circumstances may be considered for an earlier cycle.
2. Certain rules have changed:
 - SBOE approvals
 - CTE pilot requirements
 - Approval term lengths
 - Standards without “deletions”
3. The SBOE will conduct a biennial sunset review of innovative courses.