

May 2013

The mission of the Texas Education Agency is to provide leadership, guidance and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- Curriculum Division
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147486096>
- Graduation Requirements
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation.aspx>
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (Those in effect and those undergoing revision)
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>
- 19 TAC Chapter 74
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/index.html>

STAY UPDATED

- Join a listserv for the latest information by visiting
<http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/>.
- Check the TEA website often at www.tea.state.tx.us.
- Check Letters to the Administrator Addressed at
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ta_letters.aspx.
- Call the Curriculum Division at 512-463-9581.
- Email questions to the Curriculum Division at curriculum@tea.state.tx.us.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Update

Mathematics—In April 2012, the State Board of Education (SBOE) gave final approval to the revised mathematics TEKS for Kindergarten-grade 12. The revised TEKS are available online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/index.html> and are indicated by “Adopted 2012” in the title.

Please note that the revised mathematics TEKS for Kindergarten through grade 8 are expected to be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. The revised mathematics TEKS for high school are scheduled for implementation in the 2015-2016 school year, depending upon the availability of funding for instructional materials. Questions regarding implementation of the revised TEKS may be directed to Jo Ann Bilderback, Math/Science Content Specialist, at joann.bilderback@tea.state.tx.us.

Fine arts—The SBOE gave final approval to revised Kindergarten-grade 12 fine arts TEKS this April. The revised TEKS are not yet available. Once published in the Texas Register, the revised fine arts TEKS will be available online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter117/index.html> and will be noted with “Adopted 2013” in the title.

Please note that the revised fine arts TEKS will not be implemented in classrooms until the 2015-2016 school year. New fine arts courses cannot be used to satisfy the middle school fine arts requirement or to earn fine arts credit toward graduation until the revised TEKS are implemented in 2015-2016. Questions related to the revised fine arts TEKS may be directed to Jessica Snyder, Program Coordinator for Enrichment Education, at jessica.snyder@tea.state.tx.us.

Languages other than English—The SBOE has begun the process for the review and revision of the languages other than English (LOTE) TEKS. SBOE-appointed committees will begin work to make recommendations for the revision of the LOTE TEKS in fall 2013, with adoption expected to take place in spring 2014. For updates and information related to the LOTE TEKS review process, please visit the LOTE TEKS webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147510494>.

FITNESSGRAM® Update

The Texas Education Code, [§38.101](#) and [§38.103](#), requires that the fitness levels of all students in grades 3-12 enrolled in a physical education course or any substitute course or activity be assessed at least once annually and that school districts submit the results to the TEA each school year. The TEA identified FITNESSGRAM® as the assessment tool to be used by all school districts.

The system for uploading FITNESSGRAM® opened on Friday, March 1, 2013. All data must be uploaded by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, June 14, 2013**.

The person designated to upload the FITNESSGRAM® data will need a TEASE account. To request access, please visit <https://seguin.tea.state.tx.us/appsng/um/apply.aspx>.

If you have questions regarding submitting data to TEA, please contact the Curriculum Division by email at healthandsafety@tea.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 463-9581. For questions regarding the FITNESSGRAM® software, please visit www.fitnessgram.net/texas or call 1-800-747-4457.

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Guidance

Senate Bill 27, 82nd Texas Legislature, 2011, amended Chapter 38 of the Texas Education Code by adding Section [§38.0151](#). This section requires the Board of Trustees of each school district and the governing body or appropriate officer of each open-enrollment charter school to adopt and administer a policy for the care of students with a diagnosed food allergy at risk for anaphylaxis. The policy must be based on guidelines developed by the commissioner of state health services in consultation with the ad hoc committee appointed by the commissioner of state health services.

The statute also requires the TEA to post the guidelines developed by the commissioner of state health services. To access the Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis, please visit http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special_needs.html and click on Anaphylaxis (Food Allergies).

For additional assistance, please contact the Curriculum Division by email at healthandsafety@tea.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 463-9581.

Important Dates

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| March 1 - June 14, 2013 | FITNESSGRAM® Reporting Window |
| April 8 - May 17, 2013 | Spring MSTAR Universal Screener Window |
| July 17 - 19, 2013 | State Board of Education Meeting |

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

NEW! Online Tool to Assist in Integrating Technology for Students with Dyslexia

A new interactive online tool to assist Texas teachers of all grades and courses in integrating technology to accommodate instruction for students with dyslexia is now available free of charge. Details about the tool were made available through Texas Education Agency (TEA) Correspondence dated Monday, May 13, 2013, and posted on the TEA Correspondence page: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=25769804880>

The tool is organized into three sections:

- Section One: An **overview of the benefits** of integrating technology into the classroom to help accommodate students with dyslexia, including research to support the plan
- Section Two: A **list with descriptions of classroom technologies** that are useful and practical in assisting public schools in accommodating students with dyslexia, considering budget constraints of school districts
- Section Three: A **methodology for providing the technologies** to students with dyslexia

Access to the online tool [Technology Integration For Students With Dyslexia](#) is available through the [state dyslexia support site](#) at Region 10 Education Service Center (ESC) or through the following link: <http://www.region10.org/dyslexia/techplan/>.

Districts and charter schools wishing to obtain additional information about the online tool or to schedule training should contact the dyslexia support specialist at any of the 20 regional ESCs.



Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) Update

The Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) provides a series of TEKS-based performance tasks and assessments designed to meet the requirements of the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented (G/T) Students*. The TPSP was created for Texas public school districts or charter schools to improve the rigor and relevance of their advanced academic instruction. Although the interdisciplinary units, or tasks, are designed for G/T students, they can be differentiated for use with all students.

The TEA is pleased to announce the addition of 19 new TPSP tasks. The TPSP now offers over 50 tasks from Kindergarten through high school in multiple content areas to meet student interests. Each task is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and College and Career Readiness Standards and is fully developed and ready to implement. Visit the TPSP website at www.texaspsp.org to view the tasks and to learn more about the TPSP. For questions related to TPSP, contact Monica Brewer, Statewide Coordinator for Gifted/Talented Education, by email at monica.brewer@tea.state.tx.us or by telephone at (512) 463-9581.

News from the Instructional Materials and Educational Technology (IMET) Division

Instructional materials for science, grades K-12; science (Spanish), grades K-5; math, grades K-8; math (Spanish), grades K-5; and technology applications, grades K-12 are currently being reviewed by educators and community members across the state. The state review panels are charged with evaluating instructional materials to determine coverage of the TEKS and identify factual errors.

The adoption of materials under Proclamation 2014 is scheduled to occur in November of 2013, and the materials are scheduled to be available for use beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. More information is available on the [TEA website](#).



MSTAR Universal Screener

The purpose of the Middle-School Students in Texas Algebra Ready (MSTAR) Universal Screener is to help teachers answer two important questions within the Response to Intervention (RtI) process:

- (1) Are students on-track or at-risk for meeting expectations in algebra and algebra-readiness?
- (2) What is the degree of intensity of instructional supports or supplemental interventions needed for students who are at-risk for not meeting curricular expectations in algebra?

Results can help teachers identify students who are in need of additional instructional support in their development of knowledge and skills that relate directly to algebra readiness.

Access the MSTAR Universal Screener through one of three ways:

- Go to <http://projectsharetexas.org>, log in to Project Share in the upper right corner, and enter MSTAR through the gadget on the My Portal page in Epsilon.
- Go to <http://projectsharetexas.org>, click the down arrow on the green "Where would you like to go?" bar, and log in to the MSTAR application.
- Go to <http://mstar.epsilen.com> and log in to the MSTAR application.

The 2013 - 2014 MSTAR Universal Screener administration windows will be announced soon.

MSTAR Diagnostic

After the MSTAR Universal Screener is administered and at-risk students identified, the MSTAR Diagnostic for grades 5-8 will be the next step for RtI implementation for algebra readiness. This tool is scheduled to be available in fall 2013.

ESTAR Universal Screener

The goal of Elementary Students in Texas Algebra Ready (ESTAR) Universal Screener, an initiative within the Texas Algebra Ready (TXAR) framework, is to support elementary students in the state of Texas to achieve a high level of preparedness in mathematics. The ESTAR Universal Screener is designed to identify students in grades 2 - 4 who may need additional support in becoming algebra-ready. This tool is scheduled to be available in fall 2013.

For more information, training, or assistance related to the MSTAR Universal Screener, MSTAR Diagnostic and/or ESTAR Universal Screener, please contact your regional education service center or universalscreener@region10.org.



Fall 2013 Registration Open for TxVSN Online Courses

Enrollment for online courses offered through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) statewide course catalog is open for fall 2013. The TxVSN is an online learning initiative administered by the Texas Education Agency under the leadership of the commissioner of education. The agency's TxVSN supplemental online course catalog provides quality, TEKS-based, teacher-led, interactive online courses for Texas students. The TxVSN offers a wide range of high school and Advanced Placement (AP) courses as well as dual credit courses. The TxVSN can help your school serve students who are in need of courses that aren't available locally or who need the schedule flexibility or individualized instruction possible through online learning. Additional course offerings continue to be added to the catalog. For more information, visit the TxVSN website at www.txvsn.org/portal/. For additional assistance or to arrange a webinar or training opportunity for your school or region about offering TxVSN courses, contact the TxVSN Help Desk at (866) 938-9876.

Summer 2013 Virtual Learning Scholarships for TxVSN Online Courses

Summer 2013 will be the final opportunity for Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) Virtual Learning Scholarships (VLS). School districts and open-enrollment charter schools participating with the TxVSN have the opportunity to apply for TxVSN VLS for accelerated summer semester courses with an instructional start date on or before June 14, 2013. The TxVSN VLS program is designed to provide opportunities for students to enroll in TxVSN online high school level courses that meet state graduation requirements in the event that other funding is not available. Summer 2013 scholarship seats will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for summer 2013 VLS seats will be accepted through June 14, 2013, or until all scholarships are allocated, whichever occurs first. For more details about the TxVSN scholarship program, visit www.txvsn.org/portal/.

Texas Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive Program

Funding allocated to the Texas AP/IB Incentive Program by the 82nd Texas Legislature will enable the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to fund the following two components for the 2012-2013 school year.

Test Fee Subsidies

TEA will provide a \$30 test fee subsidy for each AP or IB exam taken by eligible Texas public school students. Eligible students are those who have taken an authorized AP or IB course in the 2012-2013 school year or have been recommended by their principals to take the exam and who demonstrate financial need as determined in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education that are consistent with the definition of financial need adopted by the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization. For eligible AP exams, TEA will pay the subsidies directly to the College Board. Campuses and districts should not collect this portion of AP test fees from students. For eligible IB exams, TEA will provide the subsidies to individual campuses in the form of a reimbursement.

2013 Teacher Training Reimbursements

TEA will fund teacher training reimbursements of up to \$450 per eligible teacher. Teachers must complete a 24-hour or longer TEA-approved Pre-AP or AP training or an 18-hour or longer TEA-approved IB training between September 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013. The amount of the teacher training reimbursement will be dependent upon the total number of eligible applicants and the amount of funding available after the payment of exam fee subsidies. The application and additional information will be available this June at

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3822> .

Please note that the Texas AP/IB Incentive Program has a new website. Please visit the website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3822> for information regarding the program.

District personnel with AP/IB program responsibilities may wish to join the AP/IB Incentives listserv in order to stay informed about program requirements and the latest incentive developments. To join the listserv, visit <http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/> and select "AP-IB Incentives" from the drop-down menu.

For further information, please contact Debbie Gonzales, program coordinator, via email at debbie.gonzales@tea.state.tx.us or by telephone at (512) 463-9581.



OnTRACK Lessons for secondary English, math, science, and social studies subjects are available at no cost for import and management at the local level. OnTRACK Lessons are aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) of each subject and are designed to supplement classroom instruction with additional practice and extension activities. If a district elects to use the OnTRACK Lessons, copies of each online course are available for import through its education service center (ESC). ESC staff is available to provide training and support as districts implement the lessons. During the spring semester, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) updated all OnTRACK Lessons to include additional lessons focusing on TEKS that often require deeper learning and practice. In addition, TEA released OnTRACK Lessons for grade 8 math, science, and social studies.

The TEA is also in the process of adding new resources to the Project Share Gateway at www.projectsharetexas.org. The Gateway serves as a portal from which educators, students, and parents can access instructional resources that provide additional information, practice, and extensions to supplement classroom instruction and to support students beyond traditional school hours. This TEKS-aligned content can be used by teachers for classroom instruction, students for just-in-time tutorials, and for parents to understand what their child is expected to know and be able to do. Resources are searchable by content standards and search results offer instant access to engaging learning content designed to supplement a district's or campus's curriculum. This spring, the TEA added resources aligned to TEKS in K - 8 mathematics, 5 - 8 science, and Biology. The TEA will continue to expand Gateway resources throughout the 2013-14 school year.

TEA Curriculum Division

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Texas Students Using Curriculum Content to Ensure Sustained Success (Texas SUCCESS)

Texas public school students in grades 3 - 8 will continue to have access all summer long to the adaptive content and support provided by Istation Reading and Think Through Math (TTM). A Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit has been created for educators to help get students ready for continued progress in math and reading over the summer. The Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit can be accessed at <http://texassuccess.org>. Here is a brief outline of what is included:

- How to prepare students
- How Istation Reading and TTM can be used during summer school
- How to get the word out to parents and the community
- How to get assistance

Important recommendations for educators:

Prepare your students to be successful with Texas Summer SUCCESS.

(Details on ways to accomplish these goals are included in the Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit.)

Istation tips:

- Ensure that all grade 3 - 8 students have accounts.
- Ensure that all students access their accounts before the school year ends. (This is critical to ensure that the curriculum presented to students is at the appropriate level; regularly scheduled assessments will not be delivered over the summer.)
- Ensure that all students have and know their usernames and passwords.
- Print parent letters and/or log-in cards to send home.

Think Through Math tips:

- Ensure that all grade 3 - 8 students have accounts created.
- Ensure that all students have and know their usernames and passwords.
- Print parent letters and/or start cards to send home.

Note: During the summer, TTM will automatically assign a new content pathway to students who finish the lessons in their currently assigned pathway.

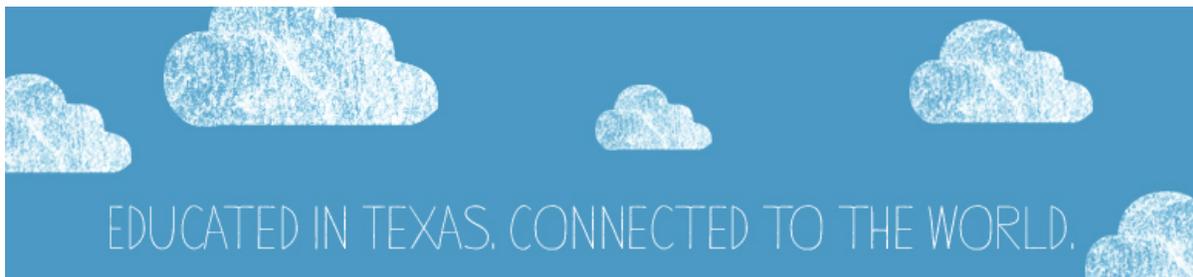
Summer Challenge

Think Through Math will hold a summer contest called "Texas Math Everybody's Doing It." Students statewide will be competing in different divisions to see which districts will be named the summer state champions. TTM will recognize the top districts and students in the state, with T-shirts, an awards luncheon, and other prizes. Information on the contest can be found by going to www.tmtexas.com/texasmath.

For answers to questions or support and assistance, contact the ESC-20 Support Center for Texas SUCCESS at <http://texassuccess.org>, help@texassuccess.org or 877-315-4918.

CTE Note

TEA has posted a resource titled "[Myths and Facts - Student Industry Certification and Licensure](#)" on the TEA CTE web page. This resource clarifies some common misperceptions about student industry certification and licensure, and about the certification and licensure list in the PER.



New Courses Available on Project Share

New Project Share Learning Opportunities

The courses listed below have become available through Project Share since the October 2012 Curriculum newsletter was distributed. That newsletter contains a list of the courses that were available at that time. It can be accessed at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147486096>.

Math

Algebra II End-of-Course Success
High School Algebra Intervention
Modules
ESTAR II Intervention Modules

Science

Chemistry End-of-Course Success Part 2
Physics End-of-Course Success
Science Safety Training for Middle School
Science for School Leaders: Grades 5-8
Science for School Leaders: High School
Kinder to College: Life Science
Kinder to College: Physical Science

ELA

ELAR TEKS: Foundations
ELAR TEKS: Grades 3-5
ELAR TEKS: Grades 6-8
ELAR TEKS: Grades 9-12
HS ELA Electives: Reading I, II, III
HS ELA Electives: Advanced Broadcast Journalism
HS ELA Electives: College Readiness and Study Skills

ELPS

Accelerating Language Acquisition for Secondary
English Language Learners
TELLIT Learning Environments for Math, Science, and
Social Studies
TELLIT Campus/District Instructional Leader Training
ELPS Linguistic Instructional Alignment Guide
Trainers of Trainers

Technology Applications

Technology Applications Admin Overview

Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies

Tier I Online Adolescent Literacy Academy
Tiers II/III Online Adolescent Literacy Academy

OnTRACK

OnTRACK Lessons for Grade 8 Math
OnTRACK Lessons for Grade 8 Science
OnTRACK Lessons for Grade 8 Social Studies
OnTRACK Lessons for English I
OnTRACK Lessons for English II
OnTRACK Lessons for English III

Career and Technical Education

Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and
Natural Resources (Parts 1-6)
Statistics and Risk Management (Parts 1-6)

Gateway Resource Companion Courses

Companion Course: Grade 5 Science
Companion Course: Grade 6 Science
Companion Course: Grade 7 Science
Companion Course: Grade 8 Science
Companion Course: Biology

Additional Training

Texas Migrant Education Program Identification &
Recruitment
Improve Student Resilience for College & Career
Readiness
Early College High School Course
Prospective Early College High School Course