

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:

- **December Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions**
 - Topic: Social Studies STAAR- Hot Topics
 - Dates: December 9 and 10
- **Holocaust Remembrance Week: January 27-31, 2025**
- **Social Studies Timely Topic: High School Courses in Middle School**
- **The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) Can Help Meet Students' Social Studies Course Needs**
- **Social Studies Assessed Curriculum Documents Update**
- **TEA Resources for the Revised Social Studies TEKS**

December Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Topic: Social Studies STAAR- Hot Topics

Target Audience: Social Studies Stakeholders—Teachers, District Administrators, Campus Administrators, Education Service Center Specialists, Parents, Professional Organizations

Session Description: The Assessment Development Division will address assessment topics where questions have frequently been asked, such as the assessed curriculum, implementing new TEKS into STAAR, short constructed response (SCR) questions, data portals, and opportunities to be involved in the assessment process

Dates & Times:

Monday, December 9, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[December 9 Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, December 10, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[December 10 Registration Link](#)



Holocaust Remembrance Week: January 27-31, 2025

The mission of the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC) is to combat and confront hatred, prejudice, and indifference by educating all Texans about the Holocaust and other genocides in an effort to dismantle antisemitism and prevent such future atrocities.

Instructional resources provided by the THGAAC are available to local educational agencies throughout the year, especially during Holocaust Remembrance Week, which next occurs the week of January 27–31, 2025. During this week, [Texas Education Code, §29.9072](#) requires public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust using resources developed or approved by the THGAAC.

The THGAAC web page for Holocaust Remembrance Week provides resources that can be used during Holocaust Remembrance Week as well as other times of the year. Visit the [THGAAC Holocaust Remembrance Week web page](#) to access these resources.

For more information about the mission and services provided by the THGAAC and to contact the Commission, please visit [the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission website](#).

Timely Topic: High School Courses in Middle School

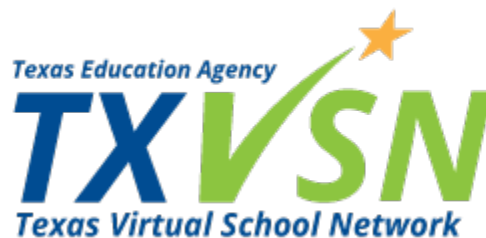
To support Texas social studies educators and stakeholders, our newsletter occasionally highlights a commonly asked question. This edition's timely topic is below.

Question: Can a student in middle school be offered a high school course for credit?

Answer: Yes, per [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §74.26. Award of Credit. \(b\)](#) Districts may offer courses designated for Grades 9–12 (refer to §74.11 of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements)) in earlier grade levels.

A course must be considered completed and credit must be awarded if the student has demonstrated achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course, including demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter, regardless of the time the student has received instruction in the course or the grade level at which proficiency was attained.

The academic achievement record (transcript) shall reflect that students have satisfactorily completed courses at earlier grade levels than Grades 9–12 and have been awarded state graduation credits.



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 eighteen 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](#).

Social Studies Assessed Curriculum Documents Update

The social studies assessed curriculum documents were updated to incorporate the [revisions made by the State Board of Education in 2022](#). These documents are now available on the [Social Studies STAAR Resources](#) page of the TEA website. These documents are now in effect to align with the implementation into the classroom for the 2024-2025 school year.

The revisions are as follows:

- Inclusion of 8.5B
- Inclusion of 8.7C
- Adjusted number/letters of SEs under knowledge and skills statements 5 and 7 for grade 8
- Adjusted language in 8.17A and 8.24A
- Adjusted language in USH 8F and 9F
- Removed social studies skills strand (As previously announced, assessment questions will not be written to this strand.)

Questions written to the new content are scheduled to be field-tested in Spring 2026 and be operational in Spring 2027.

If you have any questions regarding the announcement from assessment, please submit them to the [Assessment Help Desk](#).

TEA Resources for the Revised Social Studies TEKS

TEA has developed resources to support the implementation of the revised social studies standards. The skills matrices provide a detailed look at the social studies skills strand by grade band (Kindergarten- Grade 5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12). Each grade level/course TEKS crosswalk provides a summary of the TEKS revisions and shows the differences between the 2018 TEKS and the 2022 TEKS being implemented in the 2024-2025 school year.

You can access these resources under the "Social Studies TEKS Resources" section of the [TEA Social Studies web page](#).

Thank you for your commitment to serving Texas students.

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For questions or additional information, please visit the [Social Studies web page](#) or submit a [Curriculum Request Form](#) through the TEA Help Desk.

