

## 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**
- **Public Comment Period for Updated Social Studies Instructional Materials Is Open**
- **Texas State Board of Education Meeting, November 18 – 22**
- **Holocaust Remembrance Instructional Resources**
- **Apply for Assessment Educator Committees**

## 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 Instructional Resources

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 the following resources, which can be used during Holocaust Remembrance Week as well as other times of the year:

- [Holocaust Instruction Requirements for Texas Schools](#)
- [How to Teach About the Holocaust](#)
- [Planning the Week on Your Campus](#)
- [Elementary School Resources](#)
- [Middle School Resources](#)
- [High School Resources](#)
- [Request a THGAAC Speaker for Your Classroom, Campus, or Community Event](#)

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](#).

## Texas State Board of Education Meeting, November 19 – 22

The next meeting of the State Board of Education (SBOE) will occur November 19-22, 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. To access these SBOE meeting resources, please visit the [SBOE web page](#).

## Public Comment Period for Updated Social Studies Instructional Materials Is Open

The [Substitutions and Content Updates web page](#) has been updated with a request from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw-Hill, Savvas, and Studies Weekly to update content in their adopted social studies materials.

The public is invited to review and [comment on](#) the proposed content changes. Please submit an Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) [help desk ticket](#) if you need assistance.

## 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>.

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.

