



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:

- Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions
 - December Topic: Social Studies TEKS to be Implemented in the 2024-2025 School Year
 - February Topic: Assessment
- Updated Innovative Course Application Timeline
- Innovative Course Webinars About Proposed Rule Changes and Updated Timeline
- The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) Can Help Meet Students' Social Studies Course Needs
- Apply for Assessment Educator Committees

Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

The social studies team at TEA is committed to enhancing opportunities for stakeholder engagement across the state of Texas. Social Studies Stakeholder Engagement Sessions allow the TEA social studies team to expand information sharing and interaction with stakeholders. Each session will have a different informational focus and will include a fifteen-to-twenty-minute presentation from TEA staff, followed by an opportunity for general questions and discussion related to social studies. Stakeholder engagement sessions will be provided on two different days at two different times (during and outside of the school day) to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to attend. The information shared will be the same in each meeting. All social studies stakeholders (parents, teachers, administrators, etc.) are invited to attend by registering below.

December Topic: Social Studies TEKS to be Implemented in the 2024-2025 School Year

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

Dates & Times

Wednesday, December 13th, @ 4:00 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tdeusqzspG9YTO3zjoX6Nft8aKii2Ty7y>

Thursday, December 14th, @ 11:30 a.m.

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErc--oqTMtEt1IP658pRHI-GxE8tAVSLiW>

February Topic: Assessment

Target Audience: Middle School Social Studies Teachers, High School Social Studies Teachers, District Administrators, Campus Administrators, Education Service Center Specialists

Dates & Times

Monday, February 26th, @ 4:00 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduigrispH93pFYHDAChe99WiXsYarbcpc>

Tuesday, February 27th, @ 11:30 a.m.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErf-isrDkqEtz_TbvhutOPfwPZu8YFghH7

You can access previous TEA presentations from stakeholder engagement sessions on the TEA [social studies web page](#).

Updated Innovative Course Application Timeline

To benefit both innovative course applicants and LEAs 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 updated innovative course application timeline has been posted on the [TEA innovative courses webpage](#).

Innovative Course Webinars About Proposed Rule Changes and Updated Timeline

To highlight some of the changes for innovative courses that are under consideration by the State Board of Education (SBOE) at their meeting on November 14-17, 2023, the innovative courses team will be hosting two webinars to explain the proposed rule updates and timeline. These sessions are primarily

intended for stakeholders who are interested in submitting an innovative course application in the future.

Individuals who are interested in attending one of these webinars may select one of the two links below in order to register. Seats are limited.

- [Monday, November 27, 2023, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.](#)

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](#).

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.

Social Studies Team
Curriculum Standards and Student Support Division
curriculum@tea.texas.gov
(512) 463-9581

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