

Curriculum Update

October 2012

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/taa_letters.aspx.

•Call the Curriculum

Division at 512-463-9581.

Required Professional Development for Teachers of CTE Courses that Satisfy Math or Science Requirements

TEA is pleased to announce the launch of the first CTE professional development courses required in the [Teacher Assignment Chart](#). Teachers assigned to any of the following nine CTE courses that meet math or science graduation requirements must complete the professional development:

Advanced Animal Science	Food Science
Advanced Biotechnology	Forensic Science
Advanced Plant and Soil Science	Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Engineering Design and Problem Solving	Statistics and Risk Management
Engineering Mathematics	

As of October 1, 2012, the following professional development courses are available in Project Share:

Science Safety for High School	Engineering Design and Problem Solving
CTE 101	Engineering Mathematics
Advanced Animal Science	Food Science
Advanced Plant and Soil Science	Advanced Biotechnology

The remaining three professional development courses (Forensic Science; Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and Statistics and Risk Management) will be available soon. You may want to subscribe to the [CTE listserv](#) to watch for announcements as TEA publishes these courses (choose Career and Technology Directors from the drop-down menu and follow the onscreen instructions).

Upon successful completion of both a course and the exam, you will receive a certificate for CPE credit.

REMINDER: Teachers assigned to teach a CTE course that meets graduation requirements for math or science must meet HOUSE (high objective uniform standard of evaluation) requirements for NCLB.

For help activating your Project Share account or enrolling in one of these courses, please contact your education service center (ESC) Project Share liaison. For more information about the professional development, please see this [Letter to the Administrator Addressed](#).

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 through grade 12. The revised mathematics TEKS for Kindergarten through grade 8 are expected to be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year, depending upon the availability of funding for instructional materials. 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. The revised TEKS for mathematics can be accessed online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/index.html>. The revised TEKS are indicated by the phrase "Adopted, 2012" in the title.

Fine Arts - SBOE-appointed committees recently met to finalize their recommendations for the revision of the fine arts TEKS. The SBOE will discuss the committee recommendations at their November 14-16 meeting. The final TEKS review committee recommendations will be available on the fine arts TEKS webpage shortly before the November SBOE meeting.

Innovative Course Applications

Applications for new innovative courses and for renewal of expiring innovative courses are now being accepted. School districts may offer approved innovative courses to enable students to master knowledge, skills, and competencies in courses for which there are no Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Each innovative course must be academically rigorous and address documented student needs. To request an application for an innovative course, please email the Curriculum Division at curriculum@tea.state.tx.us with "innovative course application" in the subject line. For more information about applying for an innovative course, please visit the innovative courses webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6079>. Applications for new innovative courses and for renewals of expiring innovative courses must be received by Friday, November 30, 2012.

Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Brochures

Bilingual/ESL Programs in Texas

Bilingual Education ESL Program Brochures are now available in English and Spanish. These brochures will help parents understand the program and method of instruction that their child will receive when he or she is enrolled in a bilingual education program or an ESL program in a Texas public school.

The downloadable brochures are available in the Bilingual/ESL Services section of the Texas English Language Learner Portal, located at www.elltx.org.

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

In April 2012, the State Board of Education issued Proclamation 2014, calling for new instructional materials for the following courses:

- Science, Grades K-12
- Science (Spanish), Grades K-5
- Math, Grades K-8
- Math (Spanish), Grades K-5
- Technology Applications, Grades K-12

Publishers wishing to participate in the adoption must indicate their intent to do so by December 7, 2012. Samples of materials are due in the spring of 2013.

The Texas Education Agency is accepting nominations to the state review panels that will evaluate instructional materials submitted for adoption under Proclamation 2014. The state review panel is charged with evaluating instructional materials to determine coverage of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and identify factual errors. State review panels will convene in Austin during the summer of 2013.

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 about Proclamation 2014 is available on the [TEA website](#).

Important Dates

November 1, 2012	Exceptions/Waivers Application Deadline
November 9, 2012	TxVSN Virtual Learning Scholarship Deadline
November 14 - 16	State Board of Education Meeting
November 30, 2012	Innovative Course Application Deadline
January 7 - February 8, 2013	Winter MSTAR Universal Screener Window
January 30 - February 1, 2013	State Board of Education Meeting
March 1 - June 14, 2013	FITNESSGRAM® Reporting Window
March 4 - 7, 2013	SXSW.edu
April 17 - 19, 2013	State Board of Education Meeting
April 2, 2012 - May 9, 2012	Spring MSTAR Universal Screener Window

Early College High Schools

The Texas Education Agency developed a designation process for Early College High Schools (ECHSs) in 2009 to ensure that districts and colleges operating ECHSs maintain the integrity of the model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who might not otherwise consider attending college. This spring, the agency received a record number of applications for the ECHS designation. The agency is pleased to announce that 65 schools were designated for the 2012-2013 school year, including 12 new ECHSs. Campuses that receive the ECHS designation will receive a number of benefits including recognition as an approved Early College High School, eligibility for exemption from dual credit restrictions, eligibility for state programs, membership in the ECHS network, access to professional development and technical assistance, and recognition for fidelity to the ECHS model.

Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

Under Title III, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), TEA must hold each Title III-funded local education agency (LEA) accountable for meeting Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for English language learners (ELLs), also referenced in current federal statute as children who are limited English proficient (LEP). Each Title III-funded LEA receives AMAOs results, which are calculated only at the LEA level and are based on the percentage of ELLs who 1) make progress in learning English (AMAO 1 Progress); 2) attain English proficiency (AMAO 2 Attainment); and 3) meet the state's academic content and achievement standards (AMAO 3 LEP AYP).

The standards used for making AMAOs determinations also must reflect an annual increase. For the 2012 AMAOs, the standards are as follows:

- AMAO 1 Progress – 49.0%
- AMAO 2 Attainment – 14.0% (1-4 yrs. LEP subgroup); 27.0% (5+ yrs. LEP subgroup)
- AMAO 3 LEP AYP – LEP AYP Outcome for District

Standards for AMAO 1 Progress and AMAO 2 Attainment will apply to the results of the spring 2012 administration of the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS). AMAO 3 LEP AYP outcomes are determined through the TEA Division of Performance Reporting. For information on 2012 AYP, including the 2012 AYP timeline, please visit the AYP website at www.tea.state.tx.us/aypl/.

The 2012 Title III AMAOs results for all Title III-funded LEAs are scheduled to be reported in October 2012. LEAs not meeting all AMAOs are required to provide Title III parental notification within 30 days of the release of AMAOs results. Upon release of AMAOs results, detailed instructions and sample parental notification letters will be provided.

Important Dates for Title III:

- October 1, 2012 – Deadline for Submitting to TEA the Title III PNP Affirmations and Equitable Services Worksheets
- October 2012 – Title III AMAOs Results Released (for secure LEA access via TEASE NCLB Reports link)
- November 2012 – Deadline for Title III AMAOs Parental Notification (only for LEAs not meeting all AMAOs)



Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

2012 Texas Finalists

The 2012 PAEMST awards recognize kindergarten through sixth grade mathematics and science teachers whose innovative methods bring teaching to life in the classroom. We are pleased to announce the 2012 Texas Finalists for this award.

Elementary Mathematics Finalists

- Maggie Anderson is a 4th grade math and science teacher at Lake Highlands Elementary School in Richardson ISD with six years of teaching experience. Her principal is Kim Sullivan and her superintendent is Kay Waggoner.
- Stephen Garretson is a 6th grade mathematics teacher at River Valley Intermediate School in Midway ISD with twenty years of teaching experience. His principal is Sarah Holland his superintendent is George Kazanas.
- Wendy Hendry is a kindergarten teacher at Bransford Elementary School in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD with 16 years of teaching experience. Her principal is Sarah Hodges and her superintendent is Robin Ryan.

Elementary Science Finalists

- Kelli Halliburton is an instructional coach for grades K-5 at Clear Spring Elementary School in Northeast ISD who has 11 years of teaching experience. Her principal Adam Schwab and her superintendent is Brian Gottardy.
- Nancy Gardner is a 5th grade teacher at Elliot Elementary in Frisco ISD who has 12 years of teaching experience. Her principal is Stacy Mills and her superintendent is Rick Reedy.
- Kent Page is a kindergarten through 5th grade science teacher at Carnahan Elementary School in Northside ISD who has 13 years of experience. His principal is Lisa Turner and his superintendent is Brian T. Woods.

2013 nominations for outstanding mathematics and science educators teaching in grades 7-12 with five years or more of teaching experience will be called for soon. For more information, please visit <http://www.paemst.org>.



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

The new TEA program entitled Texas Students Using Curriculum Content to Ensure Sustained Success (Texas SUCCESS) provides access to interactive math and reading programs for Texas public school students in grades 3-8 under the Student Success Initiative (SSI).

- *Think Through Math* will provide the online interactive math program which includes live bilingual tutors to engage and assist students as they work to strengthen their math concepts.
- *Istation* will provide the online interactive reading program which includes engaging, interactive content in a game-like format. These online programs support students at all skill levels and, more importantly, encourage and enable progress and achievement as students move through the activities and curriculum.

Each program will assess individual students according to his/her skill level and then automatically assign and deliver appropriate curriculum tailored to that student's abilities. Meaningful reporting tools available through both programs inform teachers and parents when an intervention is needed or confirm that the student is on the right path. With free 24/7 access to these online adaptive programs at school and at home, teachers, students and parents will be equipped with the necessary tools to build confidence and promote academic success.

For additional information and to sign up for these resources, visit www.texassuccess.org. To contact the SSI Support Center email help@texassuccess.org or call 877.315.4918 (toll free).

FITNESSGRAM® Update

The Texas Education Code (TEC) [§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 Texas Education Agency (TEA) each school year. The TEA identified FITNESSGRAM® as the assessment tool to be used by all school districts.

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

The TEA has migrated to a new secure environment known as TEA Login (TEAL). TEAL will replace TEASE beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The person designated to upload the FITNESSGRAM® data will need a TEAL account.

An online overview of TEAL is available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=2147505323>.

Online training instructions for TEAL can be found at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/pfai_tease.pdf.

If you needed additional assistance for submitting data this school year, please contact TEA's Curriculum Division by phone at (512) 463-9581 or email at healthand-safety@tea.state.tx.us. You may also access information on FITNESSGRAM® at www.fitnessgram.net/texas or by calling 1-800-747-4457.



Courses - If you have students who are in need of courses that aren't offered locally or who need the schedule flexibility or individualized instruction possible through online learning, the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) can help. Enrollment for TEKS-aligned online courses offered through the TxVSN statewide course catalog is open for fall 2012 and spring 2013. The TxVSN provides quality, teacher-led, interactive online high school, Advanced Placement, and dual credit courses for Texas students in grades 8-12. The TxVSN offers a wide range of foundation and enrichment curriculum courses. Additional course offerings continue to be added to the catalog. For more information, go to the TxVSN website at www.txvsn.org. For additional assistance or to arrange a webinar or training opportunity for your school or region, contact the TxVSN Help Desk at 866-938-9876.

Virtual Learning Scholarships for TxVSN Online Courses - School districts and open-enrollment charter schools participating with the TxVSN have the opportunity to apply for TxVSN Virtual Learning Scholarships (VLS) for Spring 2013. The TxVSN VLS program is designed to provide opportunities for students in grades 8-12 to enroll in TxVSN online high school level courses that meet state graduation plan requirements in the event that other funding is not available. Spring 2013 scholarship seats will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for spring 2013 VLS seats will be accepted until November 9, 2012. For more details about the TxVSN scholarship program, visit www.txvsn.org.



Your superintendent received a Letter to the Administrator in June which informed districts and charters of the new student upload process required to access the following two applications:

TxAIR Texas Achievement Items Repository (formerly TMSDS)

TxAIR will be available in October 2012. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

For questions about TxAIR, contact txair@esc4.net.

MSTAR Universal Screener

Because the MSTAR Universal Screener application has been migrated to Epsilen, districts and charters are able to access it in one of three ways:

- The Project Share Gateway (www.projectsharetexas.org)
- Individual Epsilen User My Portfolio Page
- Direct Link - www.mstar.epsilen.com (available soon)

The 2012 - 2013 MSTAR Universal Screener Administration Windows can be found in the table below. Please note: the first week is noted as a soft launch for selected campuses. For more information, training and assistance with the MSTAR Universal Screener, contact your ESC. Click here to locate [your ESC contact](#).

Fall Window (Soft launch)	August 27 - 31, 2012 (Selected campuses)
Fall Window (Open to everyone)	September 3 - October 19, 2012
Winter Window	January 7 - February 8, 2013
Spring Window	April 8 - May 10, 2013

New MSTAR Diagnostic Pilot

The Texas Education Agency is in the process of piloting the MSTAR Diagnostic for grades 5-8. After the screener is administered and at-risk students identified, the diagnostic will be the next step for RtI implementation for Algebra Readiness. This tool is scheduled to be available late spring, 2013. For questions about the MSTAR Universal Screener or MSTAR Diagnostic Pilot contact universalscreener@region10.org.

TEA Curriculum Division

Staff Directory

General Contact Information

1701 N. Congress

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-463-9581

Fax: 512-463-8057

curriculum@tea.state.tx.us

Monica G. Martinez - Managing Director

Foundation Curriculum

Kelly Callaway, Director of K-12 Foundation Education

Karin Miller, Statewide ELA/R Coordinator
Everly Broadway, Statewide Mathematics Coordinator

Irene Pickhardt, Statewide Science Coordinator

Julie Brelsford, Statewide Social Studies Coordinator

Jo Ann Bilderback, Math/Science Content Specialist

Bilingual/Migrant Education

Susie Coultriss, Director of Bilingual/ESL/
Title III/Migrant Education

Roberto Manzo, Program Coordinator, ELL Initiatives

Rosie Garza, Program Manager,
Migrant Education

Kerry Manning, Program Manager,
Migrant Education

Elizabeth Minjarez, Program Coordinator,
Title III

Academic Standards and Services

Shelly Ramos, Director of
Academic Standards and Services

Vacant, Statewide Coordinator,
Gifted/Talented Education

Kate Loughrey, Statewide Coordinator,
Texas Virtual School Network

Laura Gaines, Program Coordinator

Deb Gonzales, Program Coordinator

Jessica Snyder, Program Coordinator

Career and Technical Education

Vangie Stice-Israel, State Director, Career
and Technical Education

John Ellis, Statewide CTE Coordinator

Diane Salazar, Statewide CTE Coordinator

Ron Whitson, Statewide CTE Coordinator

Dale Fowler, Program Coordinator

Enrichment and Programs

Kathleen Park, Director of
Enrichment Education and Programs
Vacant, Statewide Coordinator, Health and
Safety

Rose Duarte, Program Specialist

Naomi Williams, Administrative Assistant

Catherine Gonzales, Administrative Assistant

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New Courses Available on Project Share

New Project Share Learning Opportunities

The courses listed below have become available through Project Share since the May 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

MSTAR Academy I: Part B Completion

MSTAR Academy I: Addressing the G/T Math Learner through RtI

MSTAR Academy I: Addressing the College and Career Readiness Standards in Math

MSTAR Academy I: More about Tier II for the Math Learner

MSTAR Universal Screener Overview (version 3)

MSTAR Academy II

TELLIT: Math Affective Learning Environment v 2.0

TELLIT: Math Cognitive Learning Environment v 2.0

TELLIT: Math Linguistic Learning Environment v 2.0

ESTAR Academy I: Grades K-2

ESTAR Academy I: Grades 3-4

Geometry End-of-Course Success

Science

Chemistry End-of-Course Success

Science Safety Training for Elementary School

TELLIT: Science Linguistic Learning Environment

TELLIT: Science Cognitive Learning Environment

TELLIT: Science Affective Learning Environment

ELA

HS ELA Electives: Independent Study in English

HS ELA Electives: Advanced Journalism

Social Studies

Social Studies Grade 8 Academy

World Geography End-of-Course Success

Project Share

Next Steps in Project Share

Technology Applications

Technology Applications TEKS PD - Grades K-2

Technology Applications TEKS PD - Grades 3-5

Technology Applications TEKS PD - Grades 6-8

OnTRACK

OnTRACK Lessons for US History

OnTRACK English I: Sample Course

OnTRACK English II: Sample Course

OnTRACK English III: Sample Course

School Support Team (SST) Training

Career and Technical Education

CTE 101: Introduction to Career and Technical Education in Texas

Science Safety Training for High School (for CTE training requirement)

Engineering Mathematics (Parts 1-6)

Engineering Design and Problem Solving (Parts 1-6)

Advanced Plant and Soil Science (Parts 1-6)

Food Science (Parts 1-6)

Advanced Animal Science (Parts 1-6)

Advanced Biotechnology (Parts 1-6)

Intel® Teach Elements

Intel Teach Elements: Thinking Critically with Data

Intel Teach Elements: Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms

Intel Teach Elements: Collaboration in the Digital Classroom

Intel Teach Elements: Project-Based Approaches

Intel Teach Elements: Educational Leadership in the 21st Century

Title I Training

School Support Team (SST) Training

Additional Training

Texas Tour 1.0

A+RISE Tutorial

Improving Student Performance—Best Practices in Intervention and Acceleration


Knowledge knows no boundaries