

# Curriculum Update

Issue 1

Volume 2

May 2011

*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](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

•Check Letters to the Administrator Addressed at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taasortf.cgi?command=bydate>.

•Call the Curriculum Division at 512-463-9581.

## Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Implementation

**Social Studies TEKS** were adopted in May 2010 and will be implemented beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. For a copy of the standards, visit <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/index.html>.

**English Language Arts and Reading Electives TEKS** were adopted in March 2010 and will be implemented beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. For a copy of the standards, visit <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6501>.

## Bilingual/ESL Updates



To help districts prepare and coordinate building services, transportation, calendars, and instruction with other state and federal programs, the *2011 Summer School Program for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students in Kindergarten and First Grade* letter has been posted to the TEA website. Districts required to offer a bilingual education or special language program during the 2010-2011 school year, including those with approved exceptions, must offer the summer school program. Reimbursement for costs of enrolling students of limited English proficiency will be processed in the fall of 2011 through the Division of Formula Funding. Please visit <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/stanprog042711.html> to view the letter and additional information pertaining to 2010-2011 LEP Summer School.

The *2011-2012 List of Approved Tests for Assessment of Limited English Proficient Students* has been posted under Documents on the Bilingual/ESL webpage at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=4098&menu\\_id=720](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=4098&menu_id=720).

A new *Texas English Language Learners Web Portal*, located at [www.elltx.org](http://www.elltx.org), provides resources, tools, and training materials designed to support educators who serve English language learners.

## TEKS Review Update

**Technology Applications**—In Spring 2010, the State Board of Education (SBOE) began the review and revision of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for technology applications. In April 2011, the SBOE gave final approval to revised technology applications TEKS for kindergarten through eighth grade and 13 high school courses. The board delayed until July the adoption of standards for six additional high school courses to allow board members to continue to review recommendations. The revised technology applications TEKS are scheduled for implementation in 2012-2013.

**Mathematics**—The SBOE has begun the process for the review and revision of the mathematics TEKS. SBOE-appointed committees will make recommendations for the revision of the mathematics TEKS in late 2011, with adoption expected to take place in spring 2012. The revised mathematics TEKS are scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2013. Visit the Mathematics TEKS webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147499971> for updates and information related to the mathematics TEKS review.

**Fine Arts**—The review and revision of the TEKS for fine arts will begin this summer. The SBOE is expected to review committee recommendations for revisions to the fine arts TEKS in early 2012. The revised TEKS for fine arts are scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2013. For updates and information related to the fine arts TEKS review, please visit the Fine Arts TEKS webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147499973>.

## **TEA Curriculum Division Staff Directory**

**Effective May 2011**

### **General Contact Information**

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### **Policy**

Shelly Ramos—Director of Academic Standards and Services  
Jihan Hendley—Administrative Assistant  
Jessica Snyder—Curriculum Specialist  
Rose Duarte—Special Projects Program Specialist

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Beginning with summer 2010 and continuing into the 2012-13 school year, courses will be offered in both face-to-face and online formats. Visit your education service center websites for more information on the following professional development opportunities:

### **English**

English I and II End-of-Course Success (EOCS)  
\*English III EOCS  
\*English Language Arts Electives

### **English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)**

ELPS Academies

### **Mathematics**

Elementary Students in Texas Algebra Ready (ESTAR) for Kindergarten-Grade 5  
Geometric Approach to Algebra Readiness (GATAR) for Grades 6-8  
Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR)—An Introduction (Grades 5-8)  
MSTAR Math Academy for Grades 5-6  
MSTAR Math Academy for Grades 7-8  
\*MSTAR Academy I Part B Completion  
\*MSTAR Academy II  
Algebra I EOCS  
\*Algebra II EOCS  
\*Geometry EOCS

### **Science**

Science TEKS Overview for Grades K-12  
Science Academies for Grades 5-8  
Biology EOCS  
\*Physics EOCS  
\*Chemistry EOCS

### **Social Studies**

\*Social Studies TEKS Overview for Grades K-12  
\*Social Studies Grade 8 Academy  
\*U.S. History EOCS  
\*World Geography EOCS  
\*World History EOCS  
\*Bible Literacy as taught through Special Topics in Social Studies

### **Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA)**

TALA Academies for Grades 6-8

### **Texas English Language Learner Instructional Tool (TELLIT)**

^ TELLIT: Math Cognitive Learning Environment  
^ TELLIT: Math Linguistic Learning Environment  
^ TELLIT: Math Affective Learning Environment

**\*New for summer 2011**

**^ online only**

## Coming Soon to Project Share: Required CTE Professional Development

TEA and partners will roll out exciting new career and technical education (CTE) professional development opportunities in Project Share throughout the coming summer and fall. The professional development is designed for teachers assigned to teach any of the nine CTE courses that meet graduation requirements for math or science. Teachers must activate their Project Share accounts in order to participate in the training. If you have not received an e-mail explaining how to activate your account, please contact your district technology coordinator or your regional education service center (ESC) Project Share contact. Both contacts are able to assist you in setting up your account.

This professional development is required for the following courses:

### **Science Credit**

Advanced Animal Science  
Advanced Biotechnology  
Advanced Plant and Soil Science  
Engineering Design and Problem Solving  
Food Science  
Forensic Science

### **Mathematics Credit**

Engineering Mathematics  
Mathematical Applications in Agriculture,  
Food, and Natural Resources  
Statistics and Risk Management

*Assignment of Public School Personnel, Requirements for Assignment of Teachers (19 TAC §231.1(e))* requires that all teachers assigned to any of these nine CTE courses in the 2012-2013 school year must have completed the TEA-approved professional development for that course. Teachers assigned to teach the courses for 2010-2011 and/or 2011-2012 have 12 months from the date the professional development is available to complete the requirement.

The requirement for professional development for both CTE and foundation teachers assigned to teach these nine courses is based on an analysis that identified the gaps in theory that CTE teachers may encounter and the gaps in application that foundation teachers may encounter. The training is also structured to help CTE teachers meet NCLB highly qualified requirements for teaching math or science courses. Each module includes a proficiency test. A teacher has the option of taking the test before beginning a module. If the teacher passes the test, then the teacher receives credit for the module. If proficiency is not demonstrated through the score on the test, the teacher must review the module and take the test again in order to fulfill the requirement. Teachers must complete all modules for the course(s) they will teach in order to meet the requirements of [19 TAC §231.1\(e\)](#). For questions about this required training, please e-mail [career@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:career@tea.state.tx.us).

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## MSTAR Universal Screener: 2011-2012 Administration Dates

TEA is pleased to announce the 2011-2012 administration dates for the Middle-School Students in Texas Algebra Ready (MSTAR) Universal Screener. The fall administration window will be August 29-September 27, 2011. The winter administration window will be January 2-31, 2012. The spring administration window will be April 2-May 9, 2012.

The MSTAR Universal Screener can be accessed through the Texas Math and Science Diagnostic System (TMSDS) at [www.tmsds.org](http://www.tmsds.org). A new data file must be uploaded in order to receive usernames and passwords for the 2011-2012 school year. Districts may begin uploading their data files in the summer or as soon as class rosters are finalized. Uploading the file in the summer or early August will ensure that your students will receive usernames and passwords prior to the launch of the fall administration. For assistance with the upload process, contact the TMSDS representative at your ESC. You may also contact [TMSDS@region10.org](mailto:TMSDS@region10.org).

The MSTAR Universal Screener is a formative assessment system administered to students in grades 5-8 to support instructional decisions. The purpose of the MSTAR Universal Screener is to help teachers make two important decisions within the Response to Intervention (RtI) process: (1) whether students are on-track or at-risk for meeting expectations in algebra and algebra-readiness, and (2) the degree of intensity of instructional supports or supplemental interventions needed for students who are at risk for not meeting 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. Teachers will be able to monitor students' risk status by administering comparable forms of the MSTAR Universal Screener in fall, winter, and early spring.

Please contact [TMSDS@region10.org](mailto:TMSDS@region10.org) or [mstarscreener@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:mstarscreener@tea.state.tx.us) with questions.

## Honor Graduate Certificates

The Texas Education Agency allows each public and accredited non-public high school one Honor Graduate Certificate to be awarded to the highest ranking graduate in the senior class. Under no circumstances should a student ranked lower than "highest" be awarded this honor. The highest ranking graduate should receive a certificate and a declaration document authorizing the president of any state-supported college or university to provide a waiver for tuition as specified in Texas Education Code, §54.201. Determination of which student is named "highest ranking graduate" at each high school is a decision which rests strictly with the local school district. Local school boards should adopt and adhere to a policy that outlines the criteria and the method by which a student is selected as the highest ranking graduate. State law contains no provision that designates the Commissioner of Education or the Texas Education Agency as the decision-making authority in this area.

Please visit TEA's Highest Ranking Graduate webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/HRGform.html> for more information.

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## AP/IB Incentive Program—Campus Awards

The agency is now accepting applications from districts for the 2010 AP/IB exam administration via an online application located at the following link: [https://landry.tea.state.tx.us/tea\\_survey/aas/CampusAwards2010/CampusAwards2010.htm](https://landry.tea.state.tx.us/tea_survey/aas/CampusAwards2010/CampusAwards2010.htm)

To apply for the campus awards, each district with high school or middle school campuses that had students who took an AP and/or IB exam in May 2010 should complete and submit the application no later than Thursday, June 30, 2011. Please note that due to budgetary constraints, TEA will not be able to fund campus awards for each student who scores three or above on an AP examination or four or above on an IB examination for the spring 2011 examinations.

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## New Courses Now Satisfy Graduation Requirements

Several new courses may now satisfy graduation requirements in English, mathematics, science, fine arts, and speech. Each course is specific to the graduation plan under which a student is graduating.

Course	Credit Satisfied	Minimum	Recommended	DAP
Business English	English ( <i>fourth English Credit</i> )	√		
Principles and Elements of Floral Design	Fine Arts	√	√	√
Engineering Mathematics	Mathematics ( <i>if taken after Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II</i> )	√*	√	√
Mathematical Application in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	Mathematics ( <i>if taken prior to Algebra II</i> )	√*	√	
Statistics and Risk Management	Mathematics ( <i>if taken after Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II</i> )	√*	√	√
Advanced Quantitative Reasoning	Mathematics ( <i>if taken after Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II</i> )	√*	√	√
Advanced Animal Science	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Advanced Biotechnology	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Advanced Plant and Soil Science	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Anatomy and Physiology	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Engineering Design and Problem Solving	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Food Science	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Forensic Science	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Medical Microbiology	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Pathophysiology	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Principles of Technology	Science ( <i>Physics</i> )		√	
Scientific Research and Design	Science ( <i>fourth science credit</i> )		√	√
Professional Communications	Speech	√	√	√

\* Students on the Minimum High School Program may take these courses for mathematics credit in any sequence.