Texas Home Learning (THL) is an optional, aligned suite of resources for the new learning environment that educators can use in-full or in-part. THL includes access to high-quality, TEKS-aligned instructional materials for prekindergarten through grade 12, technology, and professional development opportunities to support implementation in in-person and in remote settings.

Texas Home Learning 3.0: Section Topics

Click on the section topics below to go directly to that section of the FAQ

General

1. **Does a district have to adopt all portions of the Texas Home Learning program to participate? If they choose to adopt, are teachers obligated to use the portions their district has adopted?**

   Adoption of any THL resources is completely optional. Educators are not required to use the full suite of resources or even the full set of instructional materials for a given subject/grade. Use of the materials by educators should be determined by the local decision-making process.

2. **How does THL fit into the synchronous/asynchronous plans?**

   The THL suite of resources is an option for districts creating synchronous or asynchronous plans for the 2020–21 school year. If choosing to use the THL resources, districts should identify the specific THL resources intended to be used for instructional materials, technology, or professional development within their plans.

For Parents

3. **Can parents use the THL 3.0 resources if their district chooses not to adopt them? What about homeschool use?**

   THL 3.0 instructional materials are designed to be used by trained Texas educators. All materials are accessible to any interested Texan but should be used with a thoughtful and trained approach to instructional delivery.

Learning Management Systems/Schoology

4. **What is a Learning Management System (LMS)?**

A Learning Management System (LMS), brings together everything districts and families need to keep students on track, especially with remote learning. It is the toolbox that integrates all of the tools districts and families use.

- Instructional Tools: host courses, curriculum, THL resources, accessibility features, quiz and gamification tools
- Communication and Collaboration: calendar management, grading and feedback tools, staff and student collaboration tools, parent and staff communications
- Assessment Management: Assessment item banks, interim assessments, assessment management
- Systems Management: single sign on for resources, automated attendance recording, integration with student information systems, Google & G Suite integrations
- Data Analytics: TEKS progress monitoring, student growth tracking, school and district trends

5. **Why do I need an LMS?**

An LMS helps schools, students, and families to keep learning on track, even in a remote environment. An LMS can:

- bring together teachers, students, parents, and administrators in one platform that provides easy access to classes, assignments, grades, and more;
- allow administrators to take a heavy burden off of teachers and staff, saving time and money;
- help to simply measuring student engagement for asynchronous learning plans.

6. **Which LMS did TEA choose?**

TEA has partnered with Schoology by PowerSchool to deliver a world-class LMS for two years at no cost to Texas LEAs.

7. **How much will the TEA-provided LMS cost me and how long is it available for?**

Schoology is available at no cost for districts for two years, as long as districts begin using Schoology before March 1st, 2021.

8. **Is the TEA contract for basic Schoology or does it include the Performance Matters or the SIS?**

The TEA contract covers the Schoology Enterprise package. PowerSchool SIS or PowerSchool Performance Matters would be considered add-ons that districts may decide to pay for.

9. **Where can I find more information about Schoology?**

Districts may visit powerschool.com/Texas to learn more about Schoology, including demo videos, customer stories, and training webinars.

10. **How do I sign-up for Schoology?**

New customers can go to powerschool.com/Texas to complete an interest form; Schoology onboarding specialists will then reach out on first-come, first-serve basis.

11. **What do I do if I already have a Schoology contract?**

Existing Schoology customers are eligible to receive the same LMS funding benefit that other Texas LEAs are receiving from the THL 3.0 program. PowerSchool will 'pause' your existing Schoology LMS subscription and contract, allowing TEA to fund the subscription for the next 24 months and applying any payments on the account or open invoices to the continuation of your term in 2022. Additional services, such as premium support and Schoology AMP, will still be paid by the LEA, but TEA will fund your core Schoology LMS subscription. Reach out to your Schoology Education Impact Consultant or fill out the form at powerschool.com/Texas to initiate the move to the TEA contract.

12. **What do I do if I already have a contract with a different LMS provider?**

If a district has a different LMS and is happy with their provider, they should likely stay with this option. If a district has a different LMS and is not happy, they should consider adopting Schoology.

13. **If I sign up for Schoology this year, is there any commitment to using Schoology beyond the two years covered by TEA?**

There is no commitment to use Schoology now or beyond the two-year license covered by TEA. Schoology is solely being provided as an option for school districts.

14. **Will ESCs receive their own license under the Schoology agreement?**

ESCs will receive a two-year license for Schoology at no cost to the ESC.

15. **Do teachers have access to the Schoology support team?**

Both Schoology and TEA will provide ongoing professional development for Schoology. Additionally, three (3) technical contacts designated by the LEA will have direct access to the Schoology technical team in an effort to expedite response time and to support consistency in local implementation decisions.

16. **Is TEA working with Schoology to address customer service delays?**

Given the demand for this offer and the first-come, first-served nature of implementation support, Schoology is experiencing at least a 30 day onboarding timeline. Districts should continue to provide feedback to TEA and Schoology as we will continue to improve customer onboarding processes.

17. **Does Schoology provide progress monitoring that would suffice for asynchronous tracking?**

Schoology provides tools for monitoring and documenting student engagement during remote asynchronous learning. Schoology enables teachers to:

- Track student engagement at the individual, course, school, and district levels
- Monitor progress on pre-assigned work
- View a time stamp to see when student work was submitted

18. **Will Schoology work with my existing tools (e.g., Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, student information system, etc.)?**

Schoology Learning integrates with the majority of the student information systems (including TxEIS, PowerSchool SIS, eSchoolPlus SIS, and Skyward) on the market. Integration with student information systems means that rostering information from the SIS (student information, class schedules, etc.) are pushed and synched with the SIS. For some SIS platforms Schoology Learning supports grade passback, where grades from the LMS are pushed back into the SIS. As you enter the implementation process check with your onboarding specialist around questions regarding SIS integration.

19. Does Schoology support grade pass backs with TxEIS?

Schoology's integration with an SIS comes with 2 main pieces:

- Rostering: All integrations between an LMS and SIS include the automated creation of courses as well as rostering of students within the LMS. This way, when a teacher logs in on the first day, all of his/her classes are already there and all the students are members. This information is flowing from the SIS into the LMS.
- Grade Passback: Certain integrations also include grade passback. This means that when a teacher enters a grade into the Schoology grade book, it also flows into the SIS gradebook. Not all integrations with SIS include grade passback.
- For TxEIS, our integration includes automatic rostering but not grade passback.

20. How will Schoology integrate with TxEIS (soon-to-be Ascender)?

Schoology and the TxEIS team offer the following solutions for integration between the two systems:

- **Short-term**: Immediately, Schoology can "integrate" with TXeis/Ascender via SFTP. The limitation with this solution is that files from each district could potentially be different and grade passback is not possible.
- **Medium-term**: Scripts are being developed to "standardize" the integration file between Schoology and TXeis/Ascender. The limitation with this solution is that grade passback will still not be possible.
- **Long-term**: API development is underway to fully integrate Schoology and TXeis/Ascender. This will also permit the availability of grade passback. The goal of the API connection is to allow for both data provisioning and grade passback. Further details will be released throughout the fall of 2020.

Instructional Materials

21. What is included in "instructional materials?"

Instructional materials will include resources for each grade level and subject, customized to Texas:

- Unit plans and daily lesson plans aligned to Texas standards
- Formative and summative unit assessments
- Built in progress monitoring
- Teacher, student, and family supports
- Digital format with printing capability

- Accessibility supports for all learners

22. When should we expect full access to THL 3.0? Should we be planning to start school without it?

THL 3.0 instructional materials are currently being developed to meet the needs of the new learning environment. After feedback is gathered from Texas teachers, materials will be released on texashomelearning.org. First sets of materials are expected to be released in late August and early September followed by a staggered release of material throughout the fall. Please continue to check texashomelearning.org for updates.

23. What accommodations and modifications will be provided?

THL 3.0 materials include embedded accessibility supports for special populations including English Learners, students with disabilities, and students who are Gifted and Talented. THL instructional materials include:

- Linguistic supports for English learners
- Progress monitoring tools for academic, social, and linguistic progress
- 508 accessibility (e.g. accessible design, multiple navigation options, close captioning, screen reader capability)
- A variety of developmentally appropriate, multimodal instructional strategies, multiple types of practices, and guidance on flexible grouping
- Enrichment activities for all levels of learners
- Lesson extensions for students who have mastered the content
- Guidance, scaffolds, and academic supports for students who have not yet mastered the content

24. Will a year at a glance/Scope and Sequence be available and if so, when?

All sets of instructional materials will include a year at a glance/scope and sequence for each course. Please check texashomelearning.org for updates on available materials.

25. How were the instructional materials developed? Were they designed around any standards or guidelines?

THL instructional materials are being developed specifically for Texas schools in this new learning environment. All materials will undergo a rigorous review process involving Texas teachers to confirm alignment with TEKS and quality standards. All materials will be aligned with 100% of TEKS.

26. Who will be providing instructional materials?

TEA will contract with publishers to develop high-quality, TEKS-aligned instructional materials customized for Texas and designed for flexibility in this new learning environment.

27. What grades and subjects is TEA providing instructional materials for?

- Integrated Pre-Kindergarten
- Math - K through 12th grade
- English Language Arts and Reading - K through 12th grade
- Spanish Language Arts and Reading - K through 5th grade
- Spanish Language Arts and Reading Skills - K through 2nd grade

- Science - K through 5th grade
- Social Studies - K through 5th grade

28. How will districts/teachers/parents access the instructional materials provided by TEA?

THL instructional materials will be accessible to districts, teachers, and parents in three ways:

1. Through the Schoology LMS
2. In a format that can be imported to a district's existing LMS through the publisher website
3. On the publisher website available for direct access

29. Will instructional materials be interactive online?

All instructional materials will be available in digitized or digitally native formats, depending on the subject area and grade level. Some products will include adaptive student facing software components.

30. Will instructional materials be available for printing?

Yes. All THL instructional materials are available in both online and printable form. If a district decides to print materials, they may print on their own or seek a service to print the materials for them.

31. Are printing costs covered by TEA funding?

TEA is unable to provide funding for printing services. Districts may choose to print on their own or to partner with a printing service of their choice to meet printing needs.

32. Will instructional materials include instructional videos?

Some instructional materials include instructional videos, including both the K–5 and 6–12 math offerings. Product-specific information, including availability of instructional videos, will be posted in a product overview on texashomelearning.org as it comes available.

33. How much will THL instructional materials cost? How long will they be available?

THL instructional materials will be available to districts at no cost. Product-specific information, including length of availability of materials, will be posted in a product overview on texashomelearning.org as it comes available.

34. When and how will instructional materials be released? When will [insert subject/grade] be available?

THL Instructional materials and related information will be available on texashomelearning.org.

35. What type of technology do I need to use the THL instructional materials?

THL instructional materials are available through the vendor website, through Schoology, or on another LMS through LTI integrations. The vast majority of the THL instructional materials are available through a computer with an internet connection, a web browser, and document viewing software such as PDF or Word viewers.

36. Will there be support for Canvas integration?

All THL instructional material will be able to be integrated with most learning management systems through common cartridge, LTI integration, or an alternative method. TEA will provide guidance to school districts to support his integration.

Instructional Materials by Product

Integrated Prekindergarten

37. Will Pre-K materials and associated technology (e.g., LMS) be developmentally appropriate for 4–5 year olds?

The pre-k product will not require students to interact with an LMS or digital product but will include digital communication tools for parents and teachers.

Math Instructional Materials

38. What math courses are included for high school?

High School math courses included in THL will include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.