Texas Education Agency

Texas First Early High School Diploma Program

Agenda

- Overview of Texas First Diploma Program
- Graduation Requirements
- Required Notification for Students and Parents
- PEIMS/TREx
- Links to Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Question and Answer Session

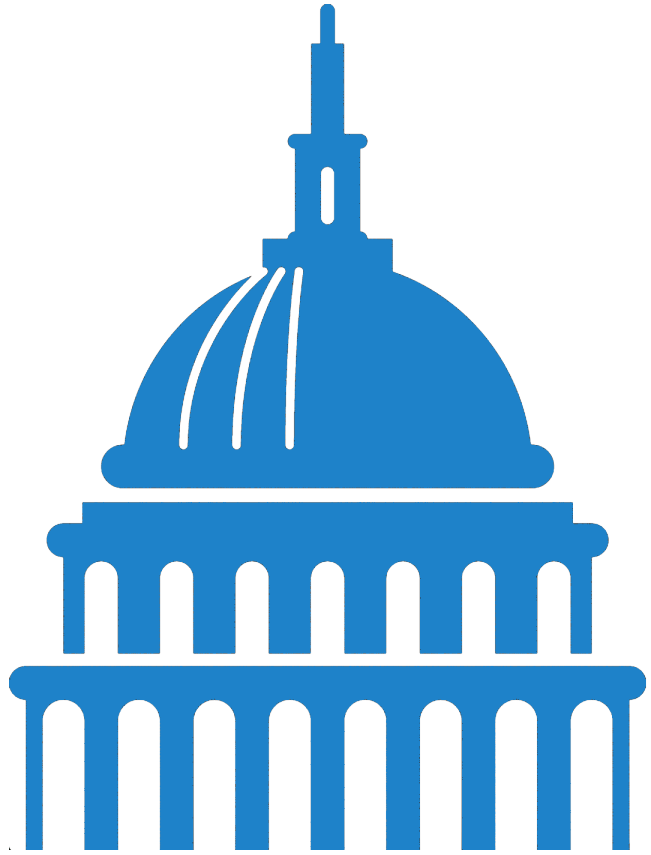
Overview of Texas First Diploma Program

Overview

Texas First Diploma Program

The 87th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1888, amending Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.0253 and creating the **Texas First Early High School Completion Program**.

TEC §28.0253 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), in consultation with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), **to establish graduation requirements** for the program.



Overview

Texas First Diploma Program

The THECB adopted rules for **graduation** that can be found in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 21.

Student **eligibility requirements** for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program are outlined in 19 TAC, Part 1, §21.52.

Overview

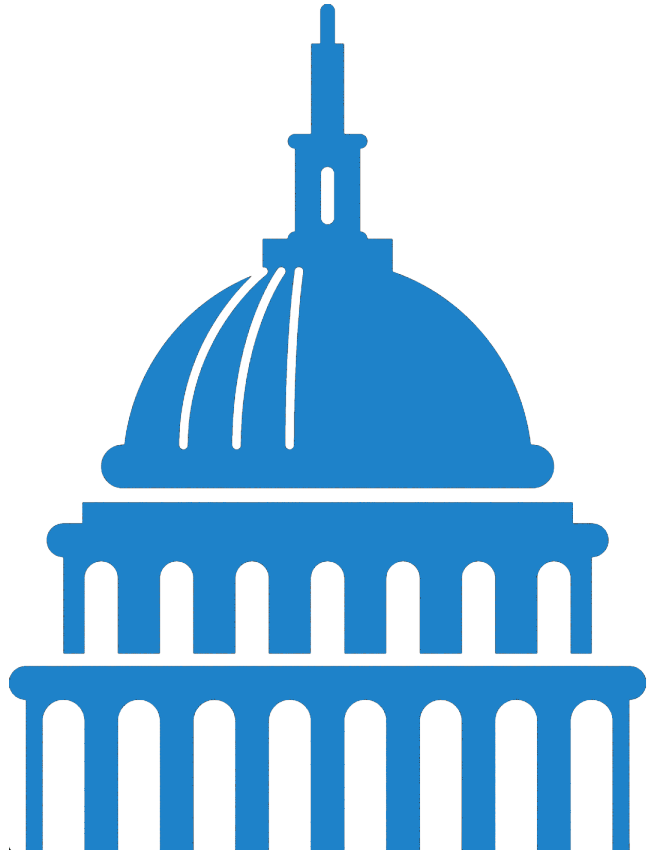
Texas First Scholarship Program

The legislation also established the Texas First Scholarship Program.

The **scholarship program** is set forth in TEC Chapter 56, Subchapter K-1, Texas First Scholarship Program.

The THECB has adopted rules to implement the Texas First Scholarship Program.

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter T



Overview

The stated purpose of the legislation is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high performing students.

"Permitting high-achieving Texas students to graduate early from high school and enroll early in Texas public universities would better serve many of these students and better position the state to retain these high-performing students."

—SB 1885, Author/Sponsor Statement of Intent

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

- 22 high school credits
- Final grade point average (GPA) equivalent to 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Earned an overall score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, TSIA/TSIA2, or GED, or, has a GPA in the top 10% of the student's current class
- Completed assessment requirements for STAAR
  - English I or II
  - Algebra I
  - Biology

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Students are also required to have shown mastery of each of the following subject areas:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Languages Other than English

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Mastery in the subject areas can be shown in the following ways:

- Meeting the STAAR college readiness benchmarks by scoring 4,000 on Algebra II and English III STAAR tests;*
- Credit earned in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education in which the student earned at least a C; or
- Meeting the standards outlined in Figure 1 of the rule.

***No longer being offered**

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Figure: 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(C)

TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM
Subject Area Assessments and Benchmarks

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	**ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA**	MS	**MATH SUBJECT AREA**	MS	**SCIENCE SUBJECT AREA** Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or other science	MS	**SOCIAL STUDIES SUBJECT AREA** History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or other social studies	MS	**LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SUBJECT AREA** World language or Computer Science	MS
SAT	EBRW	480	Math	530	SAT ST	700	SAT ST	690	SAT ST	730
ACT	English	18	Math	22	Science	23	Reading	22	--	--
PSAT/NMSQT	EBRW	460	Math	510	--	--	--	--	--	--
ACT – Plan	English	19	Math	19	Science	20	Reading	18	--	--
AP	English	3	Math	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3	AP ST	3
CLEP	English	50	Math	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50	CLEP ST	50
IB	Language/ Literature	4	Math	4	Sciences ST	4	Individuals and Societies ST	4	Language Acquisition ST	4
TSIA	Reading	351 +4E	Math	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
TSIA2	ELAR	945 + 5E	Math	950	--	--	--	--	--	--
GED	English	165	Math	165	Science	165	Social Studies	165	--	--

Gray Column indicates **minimum score (MS)**
ST = Subject Test
E= Essay

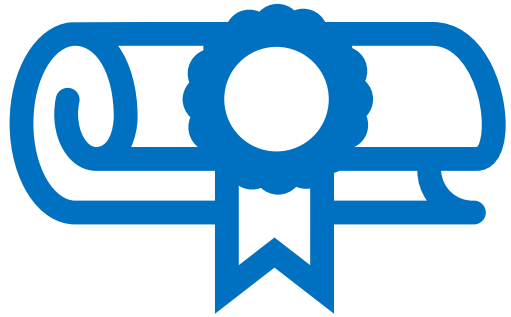
Figure 1 from 19 TAC §21.52(a)(2)(c)

https://bit.ly/3ShDJxr

Minimum Requirements for Texas First Early High School Completion Program

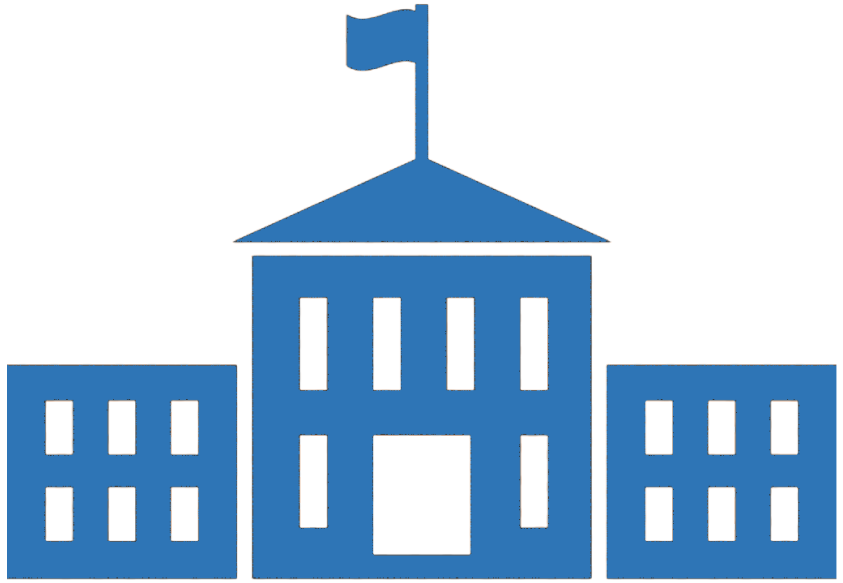
Students who graduate early through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program are considered to have earned a diploma with a **distinguished level of achievement**.

School districts are required to indicate completion of the distinguished level of achievement on a student's high school transcript.



Required Notifications for Students and Parents

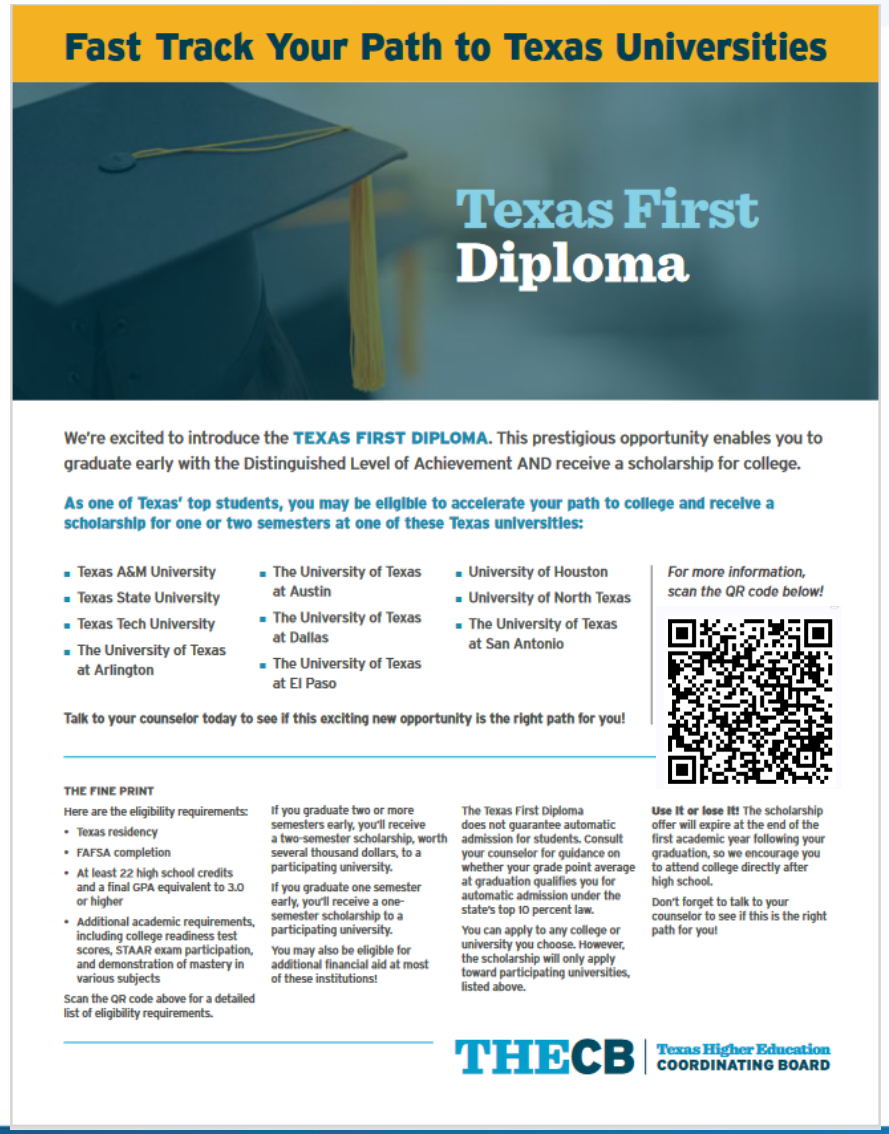
Required Notification



TEC §28.0253(g) requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to **provide students who are initially enrolling in high school information about the Texas First Early High School Completion Program**. The information should include—

- the requirements to earn a high school diploma under the program; and
- details about the Texas First Scholarship Program.

Required Notification



Fast Track Your Path to Texas Universities

Texas First Diploma

We're excited to introduce the **TEXAS FIRST DIPLOMA.** This prestigious opportunity enables you to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship for college.

As one of Texas' top students, you may be eligible to accelerate your path to college and receive a scholarship for one or two semesters at one of these Texas universities:

- Texas A&M University
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas
- The University of Texas at San Antonio

For more information, scan the QR code below!

Talk to your counselor today to see if this exciting new opportunity is the right path for you!

THE FINE PRINT

Here are the eligibility requirements:

- Texas residency
- FAFSA completion
- At least 22 high school credits and a final GPA equivalent to 3.0 or higher
- Additional academic requirements, including college readiness test scores, STAAR exam participation, and demonstration of mastery in various subjects

Scan the QR code above for a detailed list of eligibility requirements.

If you graduate two or more semesters early, you'll receive a two-semester scholarship, worth several thousand dollars, to a participating university.

If you graduate one semester early, you'll receive a one-semester scholarship to a participating university.

You may also be eligible for additional financial aid at most of these institutions!

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. Consult your counselor for guidance on whether your grade point average at graduation qualifies you for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

You can apply to any college or university you choose. However, the scholarship will only apply toward participating universities, listed above.

Use it or lose it! The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year following your graduation, so we encourage you to attend college directly after high school.

Don't forget to talk to your counselor to see if this is the right path for you!

THECB | Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD

For the 2022-2023 school year, each public high school must provide a written notification **to each high school student** and the student's parent or guardian listing the eligibility criteria for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Texas First Scholarship Program. (19 TAC Part I, §21.54)

After the 2022-2023 school year, the school must provide the notice to each student and the student's parent or guardian **upon the student's initial enrollment in high school**.

PEIMS/TREx

PEIMS/TREx

Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)

A new data element has been added to the Texas Student Data Standards (TSDS) for the PEIMS to report students who graduate by completing the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.

Element ID	Data Element	Date Issued	Date Updated
E1736	TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM	12/1/2022	

XML Name
TX-TexasFirstEarlyHSCompletionProgram

Definition
The TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM indicates the student graduated early under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and specifies whether the student graduated two or more semesters or less than two semesters or the equivalent earlier than the expected graduation date of the student's high school cohort.

Special Instructions

Code Table ID	Length	Data Type	Pattern	Domain of Values
C233	2	Coded	##	

Used in Complex Types
StudentGraduationProgramExtension

The new data element will be reported on the graduate record in Submission 1/Fall.

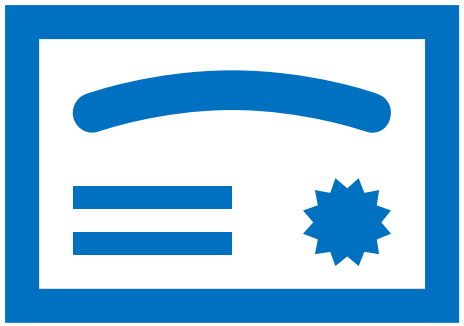
PEIMS/TREx

The code table associated with the new data element (Code Table 233 or C233) will identify whether the students graduated **less than two semesters early** (01) or **two or more semesters early** (02).

Code Table Id	Name	XML Name	Date Issued
C233	TEXAS-FIRST-EARLY-HS-COMPLETION-PROGRAM	TX-TexasFirstEarlyHSCompletionProgram	12/01/2022

Code	Translation
01	Student Graduated Two Or More Semesters Early
02	Student Graduated Less Than Two Semesters Early

PEIMS/TREx



Texas Records Exchange (TREx)

- The State Board of Education (SBOE) considered an amendment for preliminary approval (first reading) at its January/February 2023 meeting to require that a student's academic achievement record (AAR) indicate the completion of the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.
- A 30-day public comment period will begin on **March 3, 2023**.
- The SBOE is scheduled to consider the proposed amendment for final adoption (second reading) at its April 2023 meeting.
- If adopted, **a data element** will be added to the TREx data standards to include **the Texas First indicator** on the high school transcript **beginning with the 2023-2024 school year**.

Links to Resources

Links to Resources

THECB Texas First Diploma Website

https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/the-texas-first-diploma/

TAC Part I, Chapter 21, Subchapter D

https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=21&sch=D&rl=Y

College for All Texans (Scholarship Information)

http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=458

THECB Flyer

https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/texas-first-diploma-program-flyer/

Frequently Asked Questions

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Which colleges/universities are participating in the Texas First program?

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- Texas A&M University
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas

Frequently Asked Questions

Are students who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program eligible for automatic admission to one of the participating institutions?

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Are students who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program eligible for automatic admission to one of the participating institutions?

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. A student should consult their counselor for guidance on whether the student's grade point average at graduation qualifies the student for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are students who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program automatically eligible to enroll in one of the participating institutions?

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Are students who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program automatically eligible to enroll in one of the participating institutions?

No. Each college/university establishes its own admission requirements. Students who graduate under Texas First must also meet the admission requirements for the specific college or university to which they are applying.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a student need to complete the 22 credits outlined in the SBOE's foundation high school plan without endorsements?

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Does a student need to complete the 22 credits outlined in the SBOE's foundation high school plan without endorsements?

No. THECB rules state that students must obtain at least 22 credits to be eligible to graduate with the Texas First Diploma Program. There are no specific course credit requirements. Students must obtain 22 high school credits but must still meet the other graduation requirements for the program.

Note: Colleges and universities set their own entrance requirements. Consequently, a student would need to check with the specific college/university for information regarding admission requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a student who graduates under the Texas Early High School Completion Program need to earn credit in Algebra II to earn the distinguished level of achievement?

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Does a student who graduates under the Texas Early High School Completion Program need to earn credit in Algebra II to earn the distinguished level of achievement?

No. Students graduating under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program are considered to have earned a diploma with the distinguished level of achievement by completing the program requirements and are not required to complete Algebra II.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the STAAR assessment requirements for graduation?

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What are the STAAR assessment requirements for graduation?

THECB rules state that students must pass either English I *or* English II and the Algebra and Biology STAAR tests to be eligible to graduate under the Texas First Diploma Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does a district indicate on a student's transcript that a student has graduated with the Texas First Early High School Completion Program?

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How does a district indicate on a student's transcript that a student has graduated with the Texas First Early High School Completion Program?

In January 2023, the SBOE considered a proposed amendment to its rules on the high school transcript that would add a designation of completion of the Texas First Early High School Completion Program on a student's transcript. The SBOE will consider the addition for second reading and final adoption at the April 2023 SBOE meeting. If adopted, a Texas First Early High School Completion Program data element will be added to TREx for the 2023-2024 school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be a new graduation code to indicate a student has graduated via the Texas First Early High School Completion Program?

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TEA is exploring an additional graduation code for the TSDS PEIMS Code Table 62 (C062) to report graduates under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program. Foundation High School Program graduation codes include codes 34, 35, and 54–57.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much is the Texas First scholarship?

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How much is the Texas First scholarship?

For the 2022-2023 academic year, an eligible student may receive up to the maximum annual (two semester) award amount of the TExAS grant.

The amount of the scholarship depends on the number of semesters the student graduated early.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does a student graduating under the Texas First Diploma Program affect a district's accountability rating?

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How does a student graduating under the Texas First Diploma Program affect a district's accountability rating?

The Division of Performance Reporting at TEA does not use diploma plans for accountability calculations. Students would graduate with a distinguished level of achievement, which is considered a higher diploma program and, therefore, would benefit a district by adding to its calculation for a distinction.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this program affect average daily attendance (ADA) funding?

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How will this program affect average daily attendance (ADA) funding?

- TEA will increase a district's average daily attendance for students who graduated early under the Texas First High School Completion Program **and are enrolled at an eligible institution.**
- THECB shall award a grant (state credit) to pay for tuition, mandatory fees, and other costs of attendance at an institution to each eligible student based on if the student graduates two or more semesters or less than two semesters or the equivalent earlier than the expected graduation date of the student's high school cohort.
- TEA will reduce each district's Foundation School Program (FSP) entitlement by the amount granted (state credit) to each eligible student.

Q & A

Contact Information

Questions may be addressed to—

- **Texas Education Agency**
  - Curriculum@tea.texas.gov
  - (512) 463-9581

Help Desk TEA's Curriculum Division Help Desk

- **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**
  - (512) 427-6101