TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Curriculum Update

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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

•*Graduation Requirements* http://www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation.aspx

•*Letters to the Administrator Addressed* http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/sortf.cgi?command=bydate

•*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://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/sortf.cgi?command=bydate.

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

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Implementation

Science TEKS were adopted in March 2009 and will be implemented beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. For a copy of the standards, visit http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/index.html.

CTE TEKS were adopted in July 2009 and will be implemented beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. For a copy of the standards, visit http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter130/index.html.

High School Physics and Principles of Technology: Expanded TEKS

The State Board of Education (SBOE) has approved new TEKS for both Physics and Principles of Technology (PT) that will be implemented during the 2010-2011 school year. Students on the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) may satisfy their required Physics credit by taking PT, which is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course. Beginning with the freshman class of 2011-2012, students who want to take PT to satisfy their Physics requirement are required to take the Physics End-of-Course (EOC) exam as part of their graduation requirements. Because of this requirement, *the PT TEKS must provide students with the same opportunity to learn the concepts that could be tested on the physics EOC. The PT TEKS which must be met in order to prepare students for the Physics EOC are located in Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §112.71 and can be found at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/ch112d.html.*

Please contact Kenn Heydrick or John Ellis for additional information.

Request for Supplemental Science Materials

At the May 2010 meeting, the SBOE issued a Request for Supplemental Science Materials. This request calls for supplemental materials for Science grades 5-8, Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC), and Physics. The adoption of materials under this request is scheduled to occur in May 2011. The adopted materials will meet all of the new and expanded requirements of the TEKS adopted by the SBOE in March 2009 and scheduled to be implemented in school beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. More information is available at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/proclamations/SupplementalScience/index.html.

New Science TEKS and Mathematics Universal Screener Set to Launch This Fall in Texas Mathematics and Science Diagnostic System

The Texas Mathematics and Science Diagnostic System (TMSDS), an online diagnostic system linked to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in mathematics and science will be updated in significant ways this fall. Items based on the 2010 Science TEKS will be included for grades 3-8, Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC), and Physics. It will continue to include items based on the mathematics TEKS in grades 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. TMSDS provides immediate scoring and reporting to help educators develop and guide instruction efficiently. Additionally, educators may access a test bank containing thousands of test questions in order to create their own assessments, quizzes, and/or homework assignments.

In addition to the preconfigured diagnostic tests, the Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR) Universal Screener will be launched this fall on TMSDS. The MSTAR Universal Screener is a formative assessment system administered to students in grades 5-8 to support instructional decisions. The content of the MSTAR Universal Screener is based on algebra-readiness knowledge and skills as identified in the Texas Response to the Curriculum Focal Points. Results can help teachers identify students who might not be ready for algebra and are in need of additional instructional support. Teachers will be able to monitor students' risk status by administering comparable forms of the MSTAR Universal Screener in fall, winter, and early spring. Additional details, including testing windows, will be sent on the mathematics listserv soon.

More information can be found at www.tmsds.org.

TEA Curriculum Division Staff Directory

Effective September 1, 2010

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Petra Brittner—Director of Response to Intervention

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Shelly Ramos—Assistant Policy Director
Joan Britton—Curriculum Specialist
Jessica Snyder—Curriculum Specialist
Rose Duarte—Program Specialist, Special Projects

Changes to Assignment of Public School Personnel Rules, 19 TAC Chapter 231

As a result of recent revisions to the TEKS and course offerings for CTE mandated by House Bill (HB) 3485, 80th Texas Legislature, 2007, 19 TAC Chapter 231, Assignment of Public School Personnel, §231.1, Criteria for Assignment of Public School Personnel was amended. These changes also include technical changes for clarification and updates in content areas. This document may be found on the Secretary of State's Webpage for *Rules Currently in Effect* at http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=19&pt=7.

Much Ado about LISTSERVS

There is no quicker way to get current information "hot off the press" than to be a member of one or more of the curriculum LISTSERVS. To join a LISTSERV, follow these simple steps:

- Go to http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/
- Click on "Select a List" for the pop-up menu of listserv names
- Scroll down, select an area such as "ELA-Reading", and click on "Join the List"
- Enter your e-mail address
- Enter your name
- A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address listed
- Respond to the confirmation e-mail with "OK"

In addition to our existing LISTSERVs of *AP-IB Incentives, Bilingual/ESL Education, Career and Technology Directors, Early Childhood Education, ELA-Reading, Fine Arts, Gifted/Talented Education, Health and Physical Education, LOTE, Mathematics, Response to Intervention, Science, Social Studies,* and Technology Applications we are pleased to announce the new *College Preparation Program LISTSERV*.

AP/IB Incentive Program – Teacher Training Reimbursements

Teachers attending AP/IB and Pre-AP/Pre-IB training between September 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010, are eligible to apply for reimbursement from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for up to $450 for the registration/tuition of the training. The application and more information may be found at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3822.

Some important things to remember when applying for the reimbursement:

- Only authorized 30-hour **subject specific** training will be reimbursed.
- Training is only reimbursed every other year; there are no exceptions.
- Authorized training must have been provided by the College Board, International Baccalaureate Organization, Laying the Foundation, or Springboard.
- Teacher applications should be submitted to a campus or district contact who will compile the applications for the TEA. Teacher applications should **not** be sent to TEA.
- AP teachers must teach a course that has been authorized by College Board through the course audit system.
- IB teachers must teach at an authorized IB school; candidate school teachers are not eligible for the reimbursement.
- Pre-AP/Pre-IB teachers must teach a course that meets the following criteria:
  - Goes beyond the TEKS in depth and complexity
  - Is appropriately rigorous to prepare students to be successful in AP/IB courses
  - Is part of a vertically-aligned series of courses that ends with a specific approved AP or authorized IB course (i.e., a Pre-AP English course that leads directly to AP Language & Composition)
  - Is listed on the 2010 Potentially Eligible TTR Courses chart

Further information may be obtained by e-mailing gted@tea.state.tx.us. You may also call Debbie Gonzales or Rose Duarte at 512-463-9581.

New Courses Now Satisfy Graduation Requirements

Several new courses from the newly adopted CTE TEKS may now satisfy graduation requirements in English, Mathematics, Science, Fine Arts and Speech. These changes are specific to the graduation plan under which a student may be graduating.

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

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

Physical Education Substitutions

Effective the 2010-2011 school year, the following activities may receive Physical Education substitution credit for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended and Distinguished Achievement Programs:

Athletics - four credits maximum
Cheerleading - one credit maximum
Drill Team - one credit maximum
Marching Band - one credit maximum
Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) - one credit maximum
Private or commercially sponsored local activities approved by the Commissioner of Education - four credits maximum

There are no specific semester designations for physical education substitutions. In order for a student to earn physical education substitution credit for one of the above activities, the activity must include a minimum of 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. Substitution credit may not be earned for any physical education course more than once, and no more than four substitutions may be earned through any combination of allowable substitutions.

Students may no longer substitute Dance I-IV or two- or three-credit Career and Technical Education (CTE) work-based training courses for physical education substitution credit. However, the SBOE adopted an amendment to the high school graduation requirements to allow students to substitute a two– or three-credit CTE work-based training courses taken prior to the start of the 2011-2012 school year for the physical education substitution credit. Furthermore, students who earned their Physical Education substitution credit through a dance or CTE course prior to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year will still receive credit for that substitution.

New Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) codes have been established for these substitutions, and can be accessed via the Texas Education Agency website in the PEIMS Data Standards 2010-2011 Code Table C022 under "Physical Education."

College Preparation Program

The College Preparation Program provides opportunities for districts and charter schools to administer college readiness assessments at grades 8 and 10 at state expense. *Grade 8 assessments are now approved for administration in either the fall or spring semester.* Grade 10 assessments are available for fall administration only. Please note that home-schooled students in grades 8 and 10 who reside in participating districts must be provided access to the state-funded college readiness assessments at their home campuses (Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.916).

For complete information regarding fall testing, district accommodations for home schooled students, and other elements of the College Preparation Program, please visit the College Preparation Program webpage at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=8292.

Automatic College Admission Notification

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.026, and Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §61.1201, school districts are required to provide written notification of a student's eligibility for automatic college admission. School districts must provide each student with a written notification of the substance of the automatic admission policy at the time the student first registers for one or more classes required for high school graduation. No later than the 14th day after the last day of classes for the fall semester, districts must notify each eligible senior, each junior with a grade point average in the top ten percent, and each student's parent or guardian of the student's eligibility for automatic college admission. In addition, school districts must obtain written acknowledgement of receipt of the notification. The notification forms and additional information regarding automatic admission can be accessed via the TEA website at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147485632.

English I for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL I) and English II for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL II)

Students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by 19 TAC §74.4(d) relating to English Language Proficiency Standards may be enrolled in ESOL I or ESOL II. Under the new graduation requirements adopted by the SBOE in March 2010, LEP students that successfully complete ESOL I and ESOL II may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirement(s). Students who take ESOL I and/or ESOL II to satisfy their English I and/or English II requirement(s) are required to take the English I and/or English II EOC exam as part of their graduation requirements. Information regarding determination of proficiency level of beginning or intermediate will be available on the TEA website soon.

Innovative Courses

A school district may offer innovative courses to enable students to master knowledge, skills, and competencies not included in the essential knowledge and skills of the required curriculum. The SBOE may approve any course that does not fall within any of the subject areas listed in the foundation and enrichment curricula, and the commissioner of education may approve a discipline-based course in the foundation or enrichment curriculum when the applying school district or organization demonstrates that the proposed course is academically challenging and addresses documented student needs (TAC §74.27).

In an effort to give school districts more time to apply for approval of new courses and provide earlier notification of approved courses, the innovative courses timeline for 2011-2012 has been adjusted. Applications will be due by November 30, 2010, and approval decisions will be made by early spring. An updated course list will be available in the spring to aid districts in planning offerings for the 2011-2012 school year. With the approval of the local board of trustees, a school district may offer, without modifications, any state-approved innovative course.

For more information regarding innovative courses, please go to http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6079.