TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Curriculum Update

Issue 1 **Volume 1** **May 2010**

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.*

TEKS Implementation

ELA/Reading TEKS were adopted in May 2008 and implemented during the 2009-2010 school year. For a copy of the standards, visit http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/index.html.

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 more information on these standards, visit http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=5415.

College Preparation Program

The College Preparation Program offers opportunities for state-funded college readiness assessments. For the 2010-2011 school year, districts and open-enrollment charter schools may select a vendor for testing at grades 8 and 10. The two vendors are ACT, Inc. and the College Board. In early June the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will send out a district participation agreement for districts to register their intent to participate and their choice of vendors. For more information, please contact Kelly Callaway or Shelly Ramos.

AP/IB Incentive Program Information

Campus Awards - This incentive program allows the TEA to award up to $100 for each student scoring a three or higher on an AP exam or four or higher on an IB exam. The application window for the 2009 Campus Awards has now closed. TEA is unable to accept late applications. Eligible campuses should receive their 2009 Campus Awards by August 31, 2010.

2009 Teacher Training Reimbursement - This incentive program allows the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to reimburse districts in an amount not to exceed $450 for each AP/IB or Pre-AP/IB teacher attending qualified training. Districts should receive their final 2009 Teacher Training Reimbursement (TTR) payments by May 31, 2010.

2010 Teacher Training Reimbursement – Application documents for 2010 TTR are available on our website at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3822 along with Information regarding the application process. The deadline for the campus/district applications is Friday, September 24, 2010. For more information, contact Debbie Gonzales at debbie.gonzales@tea.state.tx.us.

Graduation Requirements

On May 21, 2010, the State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted an amendment to the graduation requirements to allow students to substitute certain two- to three-credit work-based training courses taken prior to the start of the 2011-12 school year for the P.E. graduation requirement.

Before a student is permitted to pursue the Minimum High School Program (MHSP), a school district must provide written notice to the student's parent or guardian explaining the benefits of the Recommended High School Program (RHSP). In addition, a student, the student's parent or guardian, and a school counselor or school administrator must agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the MHSP .The agreement must be in writing and signed by each party.

A written notice and sample opt-in signature form may be accessed at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation.aspx

Middle School Fine Arts Requirement

As established in House Bill 3, (81st Texas Legislature), all students in grades 6, 7, or 8 must take a fine arts course. Related rule language in Chapter 74.3 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) recently adopted by the SBOE states that the school district must ensure that, beginning with students who enter Grade 6 in the 2010-2011 school year, each student completes one TEKS-based fine arts course in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8. The fine arts TEKS include courses in Art, Music, and Theater.

Although the state may not mandate the amount of instructional time for any course/grade level (Section 28.001[i] of the Texas Education Code), all of the student expectations of the TEKS, regardless of academic discipline, must be addressed through a locally-developed TEKS-based curriculum when providing instruction, including fine arts. Consequently, it will be a local school district decision to determine if the fine arts course is a one-semester or full-year course. Furthermore, the teacher must be appropriately certified in either art, music, or theatre to teach the assigned fine arts course.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ELPS Description
Explore ways to increase achievement for English language learners using the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). The ELPS require specific focus on developing academic language in the content areas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening in grades K-12. In this session, participants will examine the ELPS and will practice writing language objectives using the four domains. The resources contain specific strategies that will enable teachers to incorporate the ELPS in their classrooms.

Biology EOCS
Examine the concepts in the new Biology 2010 TEKS and learn strategies to prepare your students for success on the End of Course assessment during this three day professional development. Participants will explore hands-on, student-centered lessons framed in the research-based 5E instructional model. These sessions provide connections to and strengthen participants' knowledge of College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and Response to Intervention (RtI).

Science Academies for Grades 5-8
Experience a total immersion into the new science 2010 TEKS for grades 5-8 during this three day professional development. Participants will explore hands-on, student-centered lessons framed in the research-based 5E instructional model. These sessions provide connections to and strengthen participants' knowledge of College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and Response to Intervention (RtI).

Science TEKS Overview for Grades K-12
Examine the new 2010 science TEKS to improve overall science instruction. Explore models of vertical alignment that strengthen participants' knowledge of science concepts and processes, leading to student success on statewide assessments and post-secondary readiness.

English I and II End-of-Course Success (EOCS)
This information session will include an introduction to the design of the End-of-Course assessments for English I and II and how those assessments relate to state standards. Participants will develop an understanding of what students will need in order to succeed. Session(s) will also provide Texas teachers and administrators with instruction in how to become members of the Project Share professional learning community (PLC) for ELA EOCS and access online resources. As members of the PLC, participants will have opportunities to complete future online modules and activities through the interactive platform.

Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR) - An Introduction (5-8)
The Texas Response to Curriculum Focal Points (TXRCFP) was created from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and identifies critical areas for mathematics instruction at each grade level. The Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR) training will inform and familiarize participants with the TXRCFP as a framework for improving overall mathematics instruction and achievement in order to decrease the percentage of students who need math intervention. In addition, the MSTAR training will utilize the TXRCFP framework to guide the design and implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) strategies for those students in Grades 5-8 who are identified as needing math intervention.

MSTAR Math Academy for Grades 5-6
Examine the big ideas in the Grades 5-6 mathematics TEKS and learn strategies to prepare your students for success in algebra during this professional development. Participants will explore hands-on, student-centered lessons designed to provide connections to and strengthen participants' knowledge of the middle-school mathematics that is critical for success in algebra, the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and Response to Intervention (RtI). Sessions will provide Texas teachers and administrators with online resources and follow-up activities through an online interactive platform as well as allow educators to build online professional learning communities for further development and growth.

MSTAR Math Academy for Grades 7-8
Examine the big ideas in the Grades 7-8 mathematics TEKS and learn strategies to prepare your students for success in algebra during this professional development. Participants will explore hands-on, student-centered lessons designed to provide connections to and strengthen participants' knowledge of the middle-school mathematics that is critical for success in algebra, the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and Response to Intervention (RtI). Sessions will provide Texas teachers and administrators with online resources and follow-up activities through an online interactive platform as well as allow educators to build online professional learning communities for further development and growth.

Algebra I End of Course Success
Examine the concepts in the Algebra I TEKS and learn strategies to prepare your students for success on the End-of-Course assessment during this professional development. Participants will explore hands-on, student-centered lessons designed to provide connections to and strengthen participants' knowledge of College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and Response to Intervention (RtI). Sessions will provide Texas teachers and administrators with online resources and follow-up activities through an online interactive platform as well as allow educators to build online professional learning communities for further development and growth.

For more information regarding professional development, contact your Education Service Center.

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