



# Curriculum Update

June 2015

*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.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=2147486096>
  - Graduation Requirements  
<http://www.tea.texas.gov/graduation.aspx>
  - Foundation High School Program  
<http://www.tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769817557>
  - Graduation Toolkit for the Foundation High School Program  
<http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>
  - Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (those in effect and those undergoing revision)  
<http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=6148>
  - 19 TAC Chapter 74  
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/index.html>
  - 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B  
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074b.html>
- ### STAY UPDATED
- Join a listserv for the latest information by visiting  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new>
  - Check the TEA website often at  
[www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov)
  - Check Letters to the Administrator Addressed at  
[http://tea.texas.gov/taa\\_letters.aspx](http://tea.texas.gov/taa_letters.aspx)
  - Call the Curriculum Division at 512-463-9581
  - Email questions to the Curriculum Division at  
[curriculum@tea.texas.gov](mailto:curriculum@tea.texas.gov)

## Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Update

**Mathematics**—The State Board of Education (SBOE) gave final approval to the revised mathematics Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for kindergarten-grade 12 in April 2012. The revised mathematics TEKS for high school are scheduled to be implemented in the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. The revised high school mathematics TEKS are available online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/index.html> and are indicated by “Adopted 2012” in the title.

This spring the SBOE gave final approval to two new advanced mathematics courses, [Statistics](#) and [Algebraic Reasoning](#). Both courses may satisfy advanced mathematics credit requirements for graduation and will be implemented beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

**Fine arts**—The SBOE gave final approval to revised fine arts TEKS for kindergarten-grade 12 in April 2013. The revised fine arts TEKS will be implemented in the 2015-2016 school year. The revised TEKS are available online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter117/index.html> and are noted with “Adopted 2013” in the title.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE)**—In April 2015 the SBOE gave final approval to revisions for the first portion of the CTE TEKS. The revisions include the TEKS for career development and the following CTE Career Clusters:

- Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Manufacturing
- Marketing

The SBOE is expected to consider for second reading and final adoption proposed revisions to the TEKS for the remaining CTE Career Clusters at their July 2015 meeting. Those clusters include:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections
- STEM
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

The revised TEKS for CTE are scheduled to be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. For updates and information, please visit the CTE TEKS webpage at [http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum and Instructional Programs/Curriculum Standards/Career and Technical Education Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills/](http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum%20and%20Instructional%20Programs/Curriculum%20Standards/Career%20and%20Technical%20Education%20Texas%20Essential%20Knowledge%20and%20Skills/).

**Personal Financial Literacy**—A committee of economics educators and experts in the field of personal financial literacy convened this spring to begin the development of a new elective course in personal financial literacy. Final approval of the TEKS for this course is expected in early 2016, with implementation in the 2016-2017 school year.

### English Language Arts and Reading and

**Spanish Language Arts and Reading and English as a Second Language**—The SBOE has begun the review and revision of the TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) and Spanish Language Arts and Reading (SLAR) and English as a Second Language (ESL). The TEKS review committees are expected to begin working on recommendations for revisions to the TEKS later this summer. For updates and information related to the TEKS review process, please visit the TEKS Subject Area review webpage at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769817636>.

## Texas Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive Program

Funding allocated to the Texas Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Incentive Program by the 83rd Texas Legislature, 2013, will enable the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to fund the following two components for the 2014-2015 school year.

### Test Fee Subsidies

TEA will provide a \$30 test fee subsidy for each AP or IB exam taken by an eligible Texas public school student. An additional test fee subsidy will be available from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). Each campus with eligible AP exams must submit a copy of its AP exam invoice. To do so, please mail, fax, or email the state copy of the exam invoice to Monica Brewer at 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX, 78701; FAX (512) 463-8057; or [monica.brewer@tea.texas.gov](mailto:monica.brewer@tea.texas.gov).

### Teacher Training Reimbursements

TEA will fund teacher training reimbursements of up to \$450 per eligible teacher who completes a TEA-approved AP/IB or pre-AP/pre-IB training. The amount of the teacher training reimbursement will depend on the total number of eligible applicants and the amount of funding available after the payment of exam fee subsidies. The following programs qualify for the reimbursement:

- A College Board endorsed pre-AP or AP institute of 24 hours or longer
- An approved IB training of 15 hours or longer for candidate or authorized IB schools
- An approved science, math or English training provided by the National Math and Science Initiative (formerly Laying the Foundation)

A teacher may receive the Teacher Training Reimbursement once every two years. A teacher who received a reimbursement for the 2014 reimbursement is not eligible for the 2015 reimbursement. A district or charter school must certify that teachers meet these requirements. Applications for the 2015 Teacher Training Reimbursement will be available in late summer 2015.

District personnel with AP/IB program responsibilities may wish to join the AP/IB Incentives listserv in order to stay informed about program requirements and the latest incentive developments. To join the listserv, visit

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new> and select "AP-IB-Incentives" from the drop down menu.

## MATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Support Document**—An [interactive glossary](#) for grades K-8 is available in Project Share. Be sure to look through the list of definitions on the main page before following the link to the Interactive Glossary. A Spanish version of the master list is currently under development.

[Vertical alignment documents](#) for grade 5 through Algebra I and Algebra II and for grade 5 through Geometry are also available. All of these documents, along with links to Side-by-Side TEKS Comparison documents, are available on the [Resources for the Revised Kindergarten-Grade 8 Mathematics TEKS](#) webpage. This page presents a variety of resources for both parents and teachers.

**Mathematical Models with Applications**—Mathematical Models with Applications will continue to be available to satisfy a third mathematics credit for students on the Foundation High School Program, Minimum High School Program (MHSP), and the Recommended High School Program (RHSP). Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Mathematical Models will no longer satisfy the fourth mathematics credit for students on the Foundation High School Program.

Students on the RHSP must continue to follow the sequencing requirements for Math Models and Algebra II. There are no sequencing requirements for Math Models and Algebra II on the MHSP and the Foundation High School Program.

## The Texas Performance Standards Projects

The Texas Performance Standards Projects (TPSP), [www.texaspsp.org](http://www.texaspsp.org), offers tasks that are available in multiple content areas from kindergarten through high school. TPSP tasks meet student interests and are aligned with the TEKS and College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). The primary, intermediate, and middle school Tasks and Continuum of Learning Experiences Frameworks (COLEF) charts have been updated with the currently adopted math TEKS.

## News from the Instructional Materials and Educational Technology Division

The SBOE adopted instructional materials for social studies, grades K-12; social studies (Spanish), grades K-5; math, grades 9-12; and fine arts, grades K-12 in November 2014. The materials will be available for use beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. A list of materials adopted in Proclamation 2015 is available on the [TEA website](#).

The SBOE issued [Proclamation 2017](#) at their April 2015 meeting. Proclamation 2017 calls for instructional materials for languages other than English (LOTE), career and technical education, Special Topics in Social Studies, Statistics, and Algebraic Reasoning. The materials are scheduled to be reviewed during the summer of 2016, adopted by the SBOE in November 2016, and available for use beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. More information is available on the [TEA website](#).

## Social Studies Update

### Revisions to AP/IB Social Studies TEKS

In November 2014, the SBOE adopted revisions to the TEKS for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) social studies courses that meet social studies graduation requirements.

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, the following courses will be required to address the TEKS for the corresponding course.

- AP Human Geography
- AP World History
- AP U.S. History
- AP U.S. Government
- IB History: Americas
- IB Geography, Standard Level
- IB Geography, Higher Level

The text of the adopted amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 113, [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies](#), Subchapter D, [Other Social Studies Courses](#), will be available online at [http://tea.texas.gov/About\\_TEA/Laws\\_and\\_Rules/SBOE\\_Rules\\_\(TAC\)/Adopted\\_State\\_Board\\_of\\_Education\\_Rules\\_-\\_Not\\_Yet\\_Effective/](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/SBOE_Rules_(TAC)/Adopted_State_Board_of_Education_Rules_-_Not_Yet_Effective/) until August 24, 2015, when the changes become effective. After that date, the amended rules can be accessed in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113d.html>.

## NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP

Two students have been selected to represent Texas as delegates to the 2015 National Youth Science Camp. The National Youth Science Camp, one of the nation's premier programs in secondary science education, is an annual summer forum where two delegates representing each state exchange ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from academic and corporate worlds. Delegates who are chosen to represent each state must have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership in school and community activities, and a genuine interest in the sciences. The two Texas students selected are

- Arav Arora – a senior at Plano East Senior High School (Plano ISD) and
- Krithika Suresh – a senior at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in Denton.

In addition to the two state delegates, four alternates were also selected. The four alternates for Texas include: Pablo Johnson of Paul H. Pewitt High School (Pewitt ISD); Shreya Shankar of A&M Consolidated High School (College Station ISD); Vinyou Tamprateep of Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in Denton; and De Andre Wilson of TMI-The Episcopal School of Texas (San Antonio). The TEA issued a [press release on April 9, 2015](#).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Engage: Free Online Prekindergarten Learning Platform

The TEA and the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UT-Health) have launched a new, innovative online platform, known as CLI Engage. This online platform is now available at no cost to all Texas public school districts, charter schools, Head Start programs, and licensed child care programs participating in the Texas Rising Star program.

Programs that register for CLI Engage will be able to access Texas School Ready! child progress monitoring assessments that reliably identify children at risk for school failure. Based on the results of these assessments, participating prekindergarten and Head Start teachers will be directed to supplementary lessons that target improvement of children's least developed skill areas. Visit the CLI Engage website at <https://cliengage.org/>.

### Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment (TX-KEA)

The Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment System (TX-KEA) is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Education, the TEA, and the CLI at UT-Health. This is a research project that will develop and validate a Kindergarten Entry Assessment for Texas children. It will encompass multiple aspects of child development, better inform kindergarten teachers about the children in their classes, and help teachers to design more appropriate learning opportunities. The overall goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive screening assessment which can be reliably administered by kindergarten teachers and is a valid predictor of academic success. The assessment will be available for free to all public schools throughout the state in 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.texaskea.org/>.

## Community-based Fine Arts

Each school district and open-enrollment charter school may allow a student to satisfy the fine arts credit required for graduation on the Foundation High School Program by participating in a [community-based fine arts program](#) not provided by the district or charter school in which the student is enrolled. The fine arts program must provide instruction in the [essential knowledge and skills](#) identified for fine arts by the SBOE. School districts and charter schools must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of each community-based fine arts program.

TEA has published the process and procedures for requesting approval for community-based fine arts programs. Please visit the Fine Arts webpage at [http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum\\_and\\_Instructional\\_Programs/Subject\\_Areas/Fine\\_Arts/Fine\\_Arts/](http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Subject_Areas/Fine_Arts/Fine_Arts/) for application instructions as well as the approval request form. For more information, please contact Kelsey Kling by telephone at (512) 463-9581 or email at [kelsey.kling@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kelsey.kling@tea.texas.gov)

## 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

**Senate Bill (SB) 149** revised the state's assessment graduation requirements for students enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, or 2016-2017 school years. A student who has failed the end-of-course (EOC) assessment graduation requirements for no more than two courses may receive a Texas high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by means of an individual graduation committee (IGC) determination. An IGC FAQ is available on the State Graduation Requirements webpage at <http://tea.texas.gov/graduation.aspx>.

**House Bill (HB) 181** eliminates the requirement that school districts and charter schools indicate on the high school diploma the distinguished level of achievement, endorsement(s), and performance acknowledgment(s) earned by a student who graduates on the Foundation High School Program. Please note that while this information is no longer required on the diploma, it must still be included on the academic achievement record (AAR), or transcript, for each student ([Texas Education Code, §28.025\(e-1\)](#)). This legislation applies beginning with high school diplomas awarded at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

### Early College High School Designations

Commissioner of Education Michael Williams announced final approval of 43 Early College High School (ECHS) designations for the 2015-2016 school year. With these designations, Texas will become home to 153 ECHS campuses.

Early college high schools are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and either an associate degree or at least 60 college credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree. Under this model, an ECHS provides dual credit at no cost to students; offers rigorous instruction and accelerated courses; provides academic and social support services to help students succeed; increases college readiness; and reduces barriers to college access.

The designation process ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the model. Benefits of designation include technical assistance and eligibility for grant opportunities. For information about the ECHS program, please contact Jessica Snyder by telephone at (512) 463-9581 or email at [jessica.snyder@tea.texas.gov](mailto:jessica.snyder@tea.texas.gov).

### Innovative Courses

The Texas Administrative Code, §74.27, Innovative Courses and Programs, allows districts to offer state-approved innovative courses to enable students to master knowledge, skills, and competencies not included in the essential knowledge and skills of the required curriculum. With the approval of the local board of trustees, school districts and charter schools may offer any state-approved innovative course for state elective credit. No application is required for a district or school to offer an approved innovative course.

At the April 2015 meeting of the SBOE, the following innovative courses were renewed through the 2019-2020 school year:

- Logic I and Logic II
- Gifted and Talented Independent Study/Mentorship I-IV
- Path—College/Career Prep I-IV

New innovative courses will be posted to [the Innovative Courses webpage](#) in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact Kelsey Kling by telephone at (512) 463-9581 or email at [kelsey.kling@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kelsey.kling@tea.texas.gov).

## BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND ESL UPDATES

### 2015 Title III English Language Learners Symposium

The 2015 Title III Symposium will be held July 28-29, 2015, at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas. The Symposium is open to all Title III, Part A, Limited English Proficiency subgrantees.

This statewide professional development event is designed to address current issues related to ensuring English language proficiency and academic success for the state's English Language Learners (ELLs).

Workshops sessions will be provided for elementary and secondary educators and administrators who serve ELLs. Registration is \$175 after May 30, 2015.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.title3.esc2.net/>, or contact Melissa Morin, Education Service Center Region 2, by telephone at (361) 561-8416 or email at [melissa.morin@esc2.net](mailto:melissa.morin@esc2.net).

### English Language Learner Instructional Accommodations Checklist

The ELL Instructional Accommodations Checklists allows the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) to document the identified purposeful linguistic accommodations for teachers to routinely implement in classroom instruction for ELLs throughout the course of the school year.

This checklist is only a resource form and is also available in a fillable PDF version. The checklist is available online at <http://programs.esc20.net/default.aspx?name=lpac.resources>.

### 2015 Summer School Program for Limited English Proficient Students in Kindergarten and First Grade

Students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) who will be eligible for admission to kindergarten and first grade at the beginning of the next school year are eligible to participate in the summer school program. In accordance with TAC §89.1250(3)(B), districts operating a two-semester system are required to offer the program for one-half day for eight weeks while school is recessed for the summer or for a total of 120 hours of instruction on a schedule established by the board of trustees. Districts operating year-round schools are required to offer a program during intercessions for a total of 120 hours of instruction. Funding for the program will be on a teaching unit basis with 18 students or a fraction thereof constituting a unit. Any school district that has fewer than ten students district-wide desiring to participate is not required to operate the program.

## ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screeners

The Elementary-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (ESTAR) and Middle-School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR) Universal Screeners are designed to help teachers determine if students in grades 2-4 (ESTAR) and 5-8 (MSTAR) are in need of additional instructional support in order to develop the skills to meet expectations in algebra. The students' results can be used to guide instructional decisions.

The 2015-2016 administration windows for the ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screener have been scheduled as follows:

- Fall: August 24, 2015 – October 2, 2015
- Winter: January 11, 2016 – February 12, 2016
- Spring: April 4, 2016 – May 6, 2016

## ESTAR/MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments

The ESTAR/MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments are designed to provide a next step for Response to Intervention (RTI) implementation. The Diagnostic Assessments are administered to students identified as being in need of additional support. The ESTAR/MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments are designed to help teachers understand why students are struggling.

The 2015-2016 administration windows for the ESTAR/MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments have been scheduled as follows:

- Fall: August 31, 2015 – October 9, 2015
- Winter: January 18, 2016 – February 19, 2016
- Spring: April 11, 2016 – May 13, 2016

## ESTAR/MSTAR Assessment Training Opportunities

Training to assist teachers to administer and use the Universal Screener and the Diagnostic Assessments effectively is currently available through Project Share.

- ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screener – <http://www.epsilen.com/crs/13205959>
- TEA ESTAR/MSTAR Learning Progressions – <http://www.epsilen.com/crs/14257272>
- TEA ESTAR and MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments – <http://www.epsilen.com/crs/14257273>

The ESTAR/MSTAR tools can be accessed through the Gateway at [www.projectsharetexas.org](http://www.projectsharetexas.org). For more information, training, or assistance related to the ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screeners and/or ESTAR/MSTAR Diagnostic Assessments, please contact your regional education service center or Project Share support at [mathtx@esc13.net](mailto:mathtx@esc13.net) or 1-855-462-8489.



## Summer 2015 Enrollment Open for Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) For-Credit Courses

Enrollment in online high school, Advanced Placement®, and dual credit courses offered through the TxVSN statewide course catalog is open for the summer 2015 semester. TxVSN courses are TEKS-aligned and taught by Texas-certified teachers trained in best practices in delivering online instruction. Any TxVSN course may be used for initial credit or credit recovery purposes. Students are not required to be physically present at school to access a TxVSN course. Ongoing support to mentor and monitor a student taking a TxVSN course may be provided onsite by the district or via email and phone.

Enrollment is also open for fall 2015 courses. Additional information can be found at [www.txvsn.org](http://www.txvsn.org). The TxVSN Help Desk is available at 866-938-9876.

## Free Online Learning Professional Development Conference for Educators

The virtual online learning conference, Speaks Volumes, is open to all interested educators and stakeholders July 29-31, 2015. No travel is required for this free conference focused on online learning and conducted 100% virtually. Speaks Volumes participants have access to informational and hands-on sessions about online learning, including student and educator support, instructional strategies, course development, and accessibility of online courses.

As a prequel to the conference, a free online, instructor-led course will be held June 4-29, 2015. This year's "Talk On Corner" course focuses on mentoring the online student. To register, go to <http://pd.txvsn.org> or call 866-938-9876 for more information.

## TxVSN Catalog Supports Districts and Students in Meeting New Graduation Requirements

The TEA's TxVSN statewide course catalog offers more than 90 high-quality TEKS-based online courses, including high school, Advanced Placement®, and dual credit courses. All high school courses are taught by Texas-certified teachers trained in effective online instruction. The TxVSN catalog provides highly interactive courses in all content areas, including seven different LOTE courses and a growing number of CTE courses. The addition of Computer Science I and II is planned beginning fall 2015. Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools across the state can use the TxVSN to expand their course offerings and help students meet the new requirements of the Foundation High School Program. Additional information can be found at [www.txvsn.org](http://www.txvsn.org). The TxVSN Help Desk is available at 866-938-9876 or by email at [txvsncentral@txvsn.org](mailto:txvsncentral@txvsn.org).

# Help Wanted Online-Employment Information for Secondary School Students

House Bill 809 from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, 2013, required that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the TEA work together to provide employment information for Texas secondary students. The legislation requires the TWC to provide TEA with information regarding disaggregated current and projected employment opportunities in the state. TEA in turn will provide this data for use in local planning and implementation of career and technical education and training programs.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the TWC and TEA have provided the required information on the TWC's new Help Wanted Online webpage. Secondary students and others will find the most up-to-date information concerning employment opportunities in any number of occupational areas by county, regional educational service center, and local workforce development area.

Link to Help Wanted Online: <http://www.texasindustryprofiles.com/apps/mHWOL/index.asp>

## Applications to the 2015-2016 CTE Professional Development Programs Open May 18<sup>th</sup>

The 2015-2016 CTE professional development programs sponsored by the TEA for CTE teachers, administrators, and school counselors will begin the week of October 5, 2015. Participation in the following programs is by application only.

- The **New CTE Teacher Conference** provides CTE teachers with less than four years of experience the knowledge and resources they need to be successful in the CTE classroom. This year's conference will take place October 5-7, 2015.
- The **CTE Leadership Academy** is a nine-month professional development program that is conducted in three phases. It provides resources and support to new school administrators and other individuals responsible for overseeing CTE programs at the district level. Phase I of the CTE Leadership Academy will be held October 7-9, 2015. Phase 2 is an action-learning project. Phase 3 is a symposium held in June 2016.
- The **Professional School Counselor Academy** is a nine-month professional development program conducted in three phases. It provides school counselors information and resources to implement effective college and career readiness programs based on current counseling policies and procedures. Phase I of the Professional School Counselor Academy will be held October 7-9, 2015. Phase 2 is an action-learning project. Phase 3 is a symposium held in June 2016.

To learn more about each of the three programs and how to apply, visit <http://cte.tamucc.edu>.

## CTE CERTIFICATION EXAM REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015

The Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.190, authorizes TEA to pay school districts an amount equal to the cost paid by the district for a certification exam taken and passed by a student to qualify for a license or certificate. TEA received a limited amount of funding for this purpose for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Districts may apply for reimbursement of certification exams taken by students during the 2014-2015 school year. Districts are eligible for only one reimbursement per student. The TEA will reimburse the cost of each exam up to \$350 under the following conditions:

- Each student must successfully complete a CTE program offered by the school district in which the student is enrolled related to the certification exam or the student must be enrolled in a special education program.
- Each student must have taken and passed the certification exam to qualify for a license or certificate prior to July 31, 2015.
- The district must have paid the fee for the certification examination with **state or local funds only**. Examination fees paid with Perkins funds are not eligible for reimbursement.
- The certification exam passed by a student must be an end-of-program exam included on the Performance Effectiveness Report (PER).

Applications will be reviewed and reimbursements granted on a **first-come, first-served** basis until the allocated funding has been expended. For more information, please refer to the April 30<sup>th</sup> [To the Administrator Addressed correspondence](#).

## Important Dates

July 15-17, 2015

July SBOE meeting

Sept 2015

Fall MSTAR Diagnostic Assessment Window

July 28-29, 2015

Title III ELL Symposium

Nov 2015

Bilingual Education Exceptions/Waivers for

August

Fall ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screener Window

English as a Second Language Due Date

## Foundation High School Program Webpage

The Curriculum Division maintains a webpage to provide updates and information related to the state high school graduation requirements that resulted from HB 5, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The webpage provides resources such as a general overview of the Foundation High School Program, the graduation programs side by side, FAQs, and other information.

Resources available include:

- the required forms that districts offering locally developed courses under TEC, §28.002(g-1) or institution of higher education-endorsement courses under TEC, §28.025(b-5) must submit to the agency and
- the required opt-out form for students who choose not to pursue an endorsement.

Please visit the Foundation High School Program webpage at

[http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum\\_and\\_Instructional\\_Programs/Graduation\\_Information/House\\_Bill\\_5\\_Foundation\\_High\\_School\\_Program/](http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Graduation_Information/House_Bill_5_Foundation_High_School_Program/) for more information.

### Foundation High School Program

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all students entering grade nine will graduate on the new high school graduation program established by HB 5, the Foundation High School Program. Students who entered grade nine prior to the 2014-2015 have the choice to graduate on the Minimum High School Program (MHSP), Recommended High School Program (RHSP), Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP), or the Foundation High School Program.

The Foundation High School Program requirements are available in 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 74, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements. These rules may be available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074b.html>.

### LOTE Requirement for the Foundation High School Program

All students graduating on the Foundation High School Program must complete two credits in languages other than English (LOTE). Exceptions may apply for certain students. The credits may be selected from either

- (1) any two levels in the same language; or
- (2) two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science, I, II, and III.

Computer Science I, II, and III are the only computer programming courses that may satisfy the LOTE requirement on the Foundation High School Program. The provision relating to Computer Science I, II, and III applies to credits earned before September 1, 2016. There are no substitutions allowed for LOTE credit requirements on the RHSP or DAP.

### NEW PEIMS DATA STANDARDS FOR THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

State law requires that, at the end of each school year, school districts and charter schools report through PEIMS the number of district and charter students who, during that school year, were

- (1) enrolled in the Foundation High School Program;
- (2) pursuing the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program; and
- (3) enrolled in a program to earn an endorsement.

These data elements have been added to the 2014-2015 PEIMS Data Standards and must be reported for the first time this summer (Submission 3).

Districts must also clearly indicate on the academic achievement record/transcript each endorsement and performance acknowledgment earned by a student. A student who earns the distinguished level of achievement must also have the distinguished level of achievement clearly indicated on the academic achievement record.

### Graduation Toolkit for the Foundation High School Program

The Graduation Toolkit provides details about the Foundation High School Program and other planning information for high school years and beyond. The toolkit is available as individual flyer pages or in a booklet format in both English and Spanish at <http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>.

## New Professional Development Courses Available through Project Share

New professional development courses designed to introduce educators to the revised mathematics TEKS for high school are now available through Project Share. To join, click on the link(s) provided below, or contact your regional education service center (ESC) to learn about blended professional development opportunities.

Course Title	Course Link
The Revised Math TEKS (Grades 9-12) with Supporting Documents	<a href="http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367068">http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367068</a>
The Revised Math TEKS (Grades 9-12): Completing the Gap Analysis	<a href="http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367067">http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367067</a>
The Revised Math TEKS (Grades 9-12): Applying the Mathematical Process Standards	<a href="http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367065">http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367065</a>
The Revised Math TEKS (Grades 9-12): Achieving Fluency and Proficiency	<a href="http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367066">http://www.epsilen.com/crs/15367066</a>

## ESTAR/MSTAR Universal Screeners and Diagnostic Assessments Windows Scheduled for 2015–2016

The 2015-2016 administration windows for ESTAR/MSTAR have been scheduled as follows:

Fall: August 24, 2015–October 2, 2015

Winter: January 11, 2016–February 12, 2016

Spring: April 4, 2016–May 6, 2016

If your school would like to participate and needs to know how to get started, contact [mathtx@esc13.net](mailto:mathtx@esc13.net).

## Grade 8 Math OnTRACK Gateway Resources

Grade 8 Math Gateway Resources are now available on the [Project Share Gateway](#). To view the TEKS-aligned, interactive resources on the [Gateway](#), select the subject (Mathematics), the grade/course (Grade 8), and “FIND TEKS.” Similar searches can be completed for other subjects such as English I, English II, and Biology.

## Kindergarten-Grade 4 Science Academies, Part II

Part II of the Kindergarten-Grade 4 Science Academies will be available beginning in the summer of 2015. Teachers can explore ways to improve science instruction and achievement in order to meet or exceed grade-level standards and ensure postsecondary readiness.

Participants will engage in hands-on, student-centered lessons that are framed in the research-based 5E instructional model and provide connections to the 2010 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for science, College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and the Response to Intervention (RtI) model. The K-4 Science Academies cover select Earth and Life Science TEKS and include access to online resources provided through the Gateway.