

How to be a part of a Curriculum Work Group

Want support and resources? Sign up [here](#).

What is a work group?

The State Board of Education (SBOE) approves educators, parents, business representatives, and industry representatives to serve on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) work groups. These groups make recommendations and draft revisions to course curriculum standards for specific subjects and grade levels. The SBOE and its appointed content advisors guide the work groups. Once the work groups submit final drafts, SBOE members may make revisions through formal amendments approved by majority vote.

Process

1. TEA staff develops a work group application. The application will collect contact and demographic information, professional and educational experiences. This application will include a **resume, professional associations, affiliations, and groups**.
2. The work group application will be posted on the webpage developed for review and revisions, ex., 2025 Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) review workpage. **See [application here](#)**.
3. The application is open, and staff collect applications throughout the TEKS review process.
4. TEA typically appoints work group members throughout the process, refreshing the groups as work continues. In theory, this means no work group members are involved in every step of the process.
5. Applicants with direct experience in the grade/course or in supporting the grade levels or subject are especially important. The following qualifications for content experts are preferred:
 - Teachers with 3 or 4 years of experience
 - District/campus personnel who have taught or supported the grade level/course
 - Industry and/or Health Experts with direct content knowledge
6. Members of the community are strongly encouraged to apply and have served in work groups in the past.

Guidelines are designed to help ensure that work group members are highly qualified, reflect the makeup of the state's educators, and include representation in:

- **Experience:** Highly qualified educators and others with evidence of strong content knowledge and experience in the subject and/or grade level, or bands, and/or course(s)
- **Position:** A variety of positions are reflected, such as classroom teachers, campus and district-level administrators/specialists, education service center subject area personnel, and representatives from higher education and community members, including parents and employers
- **School district size:** Large, midsize, and small school districts
- **Demographics:** Multiple and different racial and ethnic groups, gender identity, school district/charter school. A variety of local education agencies are represented, including open enrollment schools

Apply directly [here](#).

How to be a part of a Curriculum Work Group

What To Expect

You all are the heart of this work. We're building a diverse group of educators, parents, students, and community members to help shape curriculum standards that work for all learners. Your voice matters, and together we'll make recommendations that reflect real classroom experiences and community priorities.

Your Experience Will Include:

- **Working Together:** Collaborate with teachers, parents, and community members to review curriculum materials and share ideas.
- **Learning & Growth:** Gain new skills in understanding curriculum, supporting learning, and advocating for students.
- **Making an Impact:** Your feedback will directly influence the materials and curriculum used in classrooms.
- **Building Connections:** Meet others who care about education and make lasting professional and community relationships.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- **Time Commitment:** Meetings are likely to happen regularly (e.g., monthly or biweekly) with some preparation or review work between sessions.
- **Balancing Responsibilities:** Participants may need to manage work group activities alongside other personal or professional commitments.
- **Collaborative Process:** Discussions may involve differing opinions. Open and respectful dialogue will be important for the group to work effectively.
- **Evolving Nature of Work:** Curriculum review and recommendations are often iterative. Plans or materials may change as the group develops its ideas.
- **Learning Curve:** Participants may encounter new terminology, processes, or perspectives, which can be a valuable learning opportunity.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Social Studies Revision Work Group, and what does it do?

The Texas State Board of Education regularly reviews and updates the state's TEKS standards for each subject and grade level every 10 years. They develop and provide feedback on curriculum standards- what students learn in their classrooms. The work group helps review proposed changes, make recommendations, and ensure that standards are accurate, inclusive, and of high-quality content. Members provide input based on their experience as educators, historians, community leaders, parents, or advocates.

2. Can I serve on a work group as a “community member or parent” if I don’t have any formal teaching experience?

Of course! The Texas Education Agency (TEA) welcomes community members, parents, and business leaders with no experience into the revision process. This gives the general public the opportunity for input and feedback into what their communities need to succeed in their classrooms. Applicants **do not need to be professional educators**. The SBOE seeks a range of voices representing the diversity of Texas communities.

3. What is the time commitment and expected participation?

Work group members serve for specific phases of the TEKS revision process, which may include reviewing draft standards, attending virtual or in-person meetings, and submitting feedback or recommendations. Time commitments can vary, but most work groups meet a few times per semester, with times between the meetings.

4. How long should I expect in-person participation?

However, you should expect to commit one weekend in Austin to coordinate and develop the curriculum alongside content advisors and other work group members. In the past, expenses have been paid by the TEA. You should expect an overview of this once you have applied and have been accepted.

5. Am I putting my job at risk by taking part in this work group? How public is my identity, and how might my participation be used against me?

You are taking part as a citizen and resident of Texas, not as a representative of your institution. Your name and the work group you took part in may be part of some public documents. These are usually removed from the public website, but they do become part of the public record. We won't sugar coat it: taking part in this process is an act of courage.

6. Are there any other risks involved with taking part in a working group?

You will be in the room with people who hold views of Texas history and culture that you may disagree with. This could be triggering. However, it is important work because Texas students will be taught these standards for the next ten years. You are there to stand up for current and future students.

For more questions, contact emerald@tfn.org



This year, the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) is overhauling the social studies curriculum standards—known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, or TEKS. These updates will shape what students learn about history, culture, government, and civic life for the next decade.

What's at Stake

Every Texas student deserves an education rooted in:

- Truthful history, not whitewashed narratives
- Diverse voices, not erased identities
- Civic readiness, not voter suppression
- Religious freedom, not religious bias and indoctrination

For years, politicians and extremist groups have censored classroom content—erasing key histories like slavery, racism, LGBTQIA+ rights, and voting struggles.

Our Message:

What TEKS Should Include:

- **Diversity & Representation:** Teach the full American story, especially voices of people of color, Indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and others too often excluded.
- **Slavery & Civil War:** Address the full truth and lasting impact.
- **Discrimination & Justice:** Explore how racism, sexism, and homophobia have shaped our nation and how people have fought for justice and equality.
- **Religious Freedom:** Teach religion's role and impact in history and society and the importance of church-state separation.
- **Voting Rights:** Ensure students know their rights, especially as barriers increase.

Take Action

Speak at public hearings

Call on SBOE members to defend honest education.

Join trainings to learn how to testify and organize.

Become a Workgroup Member!

Every Texas child deserves to see themselves in the classroom and learn the truth about how we got here. Honest education builds future leaders grounded in empathy, integrity, and power.

Application at a Glimpse

Home Address

Home City

Home State

Home Zip Code

Home/Cell Phone Number

Home Email

...

Work Address Information:

Work Address

...

Work City

Work State

Work Zip Code

Work Phone Number

Work Email

Indicate your preferred email address for communication related to your application.
Please note that communications may be sent during school holidays, including the

Professional Experience: Tell us about your professional experience, starting with the most recent experience first.

Position 1

Employer

Position/Title

Duties

Start Date

End Date

Position 2

Employer

Position/Title

Duties

Start Date

End Date

Position 3

Indicate your preferred email address for communication related to your application. Please note that communications may be sent during school holidays, including the summer break.

Home email address

Work email address

Please indicate the State Board of Education (SBOE) member who represents you. To find the SBOE member who represents you, please go to the following address: <http://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> (outside source)

Current Position/Title:

Additional Information

Some work groups may be organized around grade bands or high school courses. Please rank your grade band preference(s) for serving on a work group. Please note if you select high school as your first or second choice, the next question will allow you to select the high school courses for which you would like to be considered.

- 1

Grades 6–8
- 2

Kindergarten–Grade 2
- 3

High school
- 4

Grades 3–5



Some work groups may also be organized around strands or other topics in social studies. Please rate your level of expertise in each of the following areas.

	Very Experienced	Somewhat Experienced	Little/No Experience
Texas history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
World history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geography and Culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government/Civics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social studies skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



List all current or previous professional associations, affiliations, and/or groups to which you belong.

Please explain why you are interested in serving on a social studies TEKS review work group.

Identify any contract, employment, or other business relationship that you have with any providers of educational products and/or services, colleges and/or universities, or instructional material publishing companies. If you have no such relationships, please enter "NA".

Please upload a copy of a current resume. (File name should include your first name, last name, and SBOE District number.)

Drop files or click here to upload

Verify that your resume is uploaded.

I verify that I have attached my most current resume.

