

Curriculum and Instruction

Subject: TEKS Resource System Updates
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net, 936-435-8220

An update meeting for the Curriculum Collaborative district contacts will be held on May 19, 2015 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Register for session [#170068](#) to attend this free update meeting. Information will be shared about new and coming features in the TEKS Resource System, as well as plans for the Platinum Level Curriculum Collaborative Cohort's mathematics summer revisions of teacher lessons for K-8, and the new cohort for math lessons for grades 9-12, along with much more! Contact Paula Pemberton-Kelm, ppemberton@esc6.net, or 936-435-8225, for more information.

Subject: New Mathematics TEKS for Grades 9-12
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net, 936-435-8220

The new mathematics TEKS for grades 9-12 will be in effect for the 2015-2016 school year, and teachers need to be prepared to implement these new standards. The Region 6 Math/Science team has summer professional development planned to assist teachers with the understanding and implementation of these new standards. For details, contact Tonya Preston, Secondary Mathematics Specialist, at tpreston@esc6.net or 936-435-8219.

Subject: Screener/Diagnostic Assessment End-of-Year Reminders
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net, 936-435-8220

The ESTAR/MSTAR Screener/Diagnostic Assessment window for end-of-year (EOY) administration began in April, so your teachers should be administering this now. The screener window is April 4 through May 6, while the diagnostic assessment should be given April 11 through May 13. Both may be accessed through Project Share. Also, if your district elects to give the end of year (EOY) reading assessment at grade 7, there is no official time frame for the completion of the EOY assessment but it should be occurring soon. At elementary, the Texas Primary Reading Inventory EOY or equivalent assessment should be given at K-2 six to seven weeks prior to the end of school. Kindergarten data will be submitted in the Early Childhood Data System (ECDS) during the summer. There are helpful TPRI EOY reminders at <https://www.tpri.org/index.html>. To review the assessment instrument options, please see the [Commissioner's List](#).

Subject: HB 5 Community and Student Engagement Deadline
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net or 936-435-8220

Under House Bill 5, all districts are required to evaluate the district's performance and the performance of each campus in regard to community and student engagement and assign one of four performance ratings – Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable or Unacceptable – to the district and each campus for overall performance. Districts must post the ratings and compliance status for the district and each campus on the school district's website by Aug. 8, 2015. The Texas Education Agency is required to report the performance ratings and compliance statuses on the TEA website no later than Oct. 1, 2015.



Summer Retreat

As of May 1, 2015, some 200+ individuals have registered for the summer retreat. Speakers include Omar Garcia, Dr. Michelle Smith (HillCo Partners), Blake Powell (Powell & Leon), and Cody Moree. If you have not registered but would like to attend, please contact Steve Johnson, sjohnson@esc6.net, 936-435-8290.

Texas Virtual School Network

New Courses on the Texas Virtual School Network

Amanda Gibson,
agibson@esc6.net,
936-435-8363

Region 6 ESC is preparing to launch several new courses in the Texas Virtual School Network. These courses will be available starting in Fall 2015, are fully developed, accessible and are 100% online. We are currently recruiting teachers for Computer Science I, Computer Science II and Business Management. If your district has any teachers who would be interested in learning more about this opportunity please have them contact Amanda Gibson at number listed above. Begin looking for these new courses in the [TxVSN Course Catalog](#) at the beginning of June!

Curriculum and Instruction

Subject: Dyslexia Reminders
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net or 936-435-8220

The end of the school year is an important time to begin thinking about preparing for the next school year successfully. You will want to be sure that you are retaining trained dyslexia program staff, or provide training for new staff. The five day Dyslexia Program Basics with Teacher Resources training is provided each summer to meet this need. It is session [#184771](#) on June 25, 26, 29, 30, and July 1, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also, records from this school year will need to be shared with the Dyslexia Interventionist for next year, so that the starting place is remembered for 2015-16. If a student is changing schools (perhaps moving from elementary to intermediate campuses), those records will need to be given to the appropriate person on the student's future campus. Finally, all dyslexia assessment referrals should be complete by year end or plans should be made to complete the assessments during the summer to meet the district dyslexia plan's time frame. Summer is also an excellent time to review the district dyslexia plan and update it, especially with the new Dyslexia Handbook update in July 2014. A free District Dyslexia Plan Template is available through The ELA and Reading Region 6 website at <http://www.esc6.net/info/programs/page.aspx?id=178>. For more information about dyslexia and requirements, please contact Debbie Smith at dsmith@esc6.net or 936-435-8369.

Subject: Istation and Think Through Math Summer Kits
Paula Pemberton-Kelm, ppemberton@esc6.net or 936-435-8225

Access to Texas SUCCESS - Istation Reading and Think Through Math will continue throughout the summer months. ESC 20 has worked with the Texas SUCCESS providers to create toolkits for parents available in both English and Spanish. These toolkits will be distributed to your districts during the May 20th superintendents meeting and should be delivered to students' families. Additional parent toolkits may be ordered from the SSI Support Center at ESC 20 by accessing the online form at <http://www.jotformpro.com/texasuccess/ParentToolkit>. Resources for parents (including the toolkits) are also available on the Parent Corner section of texasuccess.org.

Subject: Title IX Guidance Package Released by OCR
Dr. Traci Seils, tseils@esc6.net or 936-435-8220

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights released a guidance package emphasizing the responsibility of school districts, colleges and universities to designate a Title IX Coordinator. The guidance package, including a Dear Colleague Letter, Letter to Title IX Coordinators, and a Title IX Resource Guide may be accessed at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/title-ix-coordinators.html>.

Commissioner's Rulings

Subject: Commissioner Rulings Have Impact on Accountability
Ingrid Lee, ilee@esc6.net, 936-435-8294

April brought STAAR testing and several new rulings by Education Commissioner Williams. The change with the largest impact on elementary schools, middle schools and districts is the exclusion of STAAR math scores for grades 3-8. The impact here is both positive and negative, as the postponement of including these scores of test takers on the new math TEKS will provide teachers and students one more year to familiarize themselves with the standards. The downside is that this leaves a heavy weight on reading and writing at the early elementary levels, with the addition of science and social studies at other campuses. [Click here to read more.](#)

84th Legislature

Time is running out in Austin for the 84th Legislature. Ross Ramsey with the Texas Tribune provides a summary of the time remaining. [Click here to read the article published on May 4, 2015.](#)

[Click here to see the calendar all are carrying around the Capitol today.](#)

Food for Thought

Ed Funding Differences HB 1– House and Senate

Interested in knowing the major education funding differences in the state budget between the House and Senate? The Legislative Budget Board has posted its [issue docket for Article III.](#)

Texas Teacher of the Year Program

Subject: Reasons to Participate in the Texas Teacher of the Year Program
Dorothy Yawn, dyawn@esc6.net , 936 435-8304.

Consider nominating candidates now for the Texas Teacher of the Year. Application and guidelines are available on the TASA website <http://www.tasanet.org>.

Each Teacher of the Year nomination is:

- *Memorable for the teacher.* Recognition has the immediate benefits of boosting the teacher's morale and validates the solid perceptions of students, parents, and colleagues. This acknowledgment expands the influence of teachers whose leadership is recognized.
- *Valuable for students.* Students feel great pride when their teacher, or a teacher they know, is chosen as the teacher of the year at the school, district, regional or state level.
- *Significant for the school and faculty.* Nominating the Texas Teacher of the Year raises the credibility of a school and its staff in the local community.
- *Meaningful for the school district, its leaders and patrons.* The positive effects that a school receives spread throughout the school district. Enhanced community prestige and community pride are priceless and directly contribute to improved expectations, support for schools, and student learning.
- *Good for the community.* A healthy society values education and appreciates the educators who work to ensure future generations are well-educated. A nominee for Teacher of the Year provides the community an opportunity to recognize a representative of the profession and celebrate the importance of teachers.

Make the focus of your program the recognition of local teachers and promote the perception that the program recognizes teaching excellence. Participating school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may nominate two teachers – one elementary and one secondary educator. The two district winners are sent to Region 6 and will be in competition as the Region 6 Teacher of the Year winners.

Applications are due to Region 6 on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Send applications and photos to dyawn@esc6.net. It is not necessary to send a hard copy. Photos are best sent as a separate file.

An Educator Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled at Region 6 on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. All nominees will be invited. The Region 6 Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the year will be announced at the luncheon.

In the fall, the Texas State Teacher of the Year Program honors 40 Regional Teachers of the Year in Austin. These regional teachers represent each of the 20 Education Service Center regions in Texas. Two of these finalists will be selected as the two State Teachers of the Year – one in elementary education and one in secondary education.

National Teacher of the Year

Dorothy Yawn, dyawn@esc6.net, 936-435-8304

TASA has announced that the Texas Teacher of the Year has been selected as the National Teacher of the Year—a first since 1957. [Click here to read more.](#)



ESC 6 Leadership Team Conducts Strategic Planning Process Vision, Mission, Critical Issues, and Goals

In late March the Leadership Team at ESC Region 6 met for two days to chart a course for the Center for the next 3 to 5 years. In that process the Leadership Team developed a new Vision Statement, a new Mission Statement, identified Critical Issues facing the Center and outlined Goals that will guide and direct the efforts of the staff at ESC 6. The next phase, developing specific objectives and strategies for each goal will be accomplished by members of the ESC Region 6 staff on May 15, 2016.

The Vision: *Dedicated to Serve*

The Mission: *The Mission of ESC Region 6 is to empower the educational community to achieve excellence.*

Critical Issues: *Student Performance, Funding, Communication, Technology & Personnel*

Goals:

- 1. Communicate effectively.*
- 2. Utilize technology to enhance services.*
- 3. Seek and manage organizational resources.*
- 4. Recruit and retain quality personnel.*
- 5. Promote high student performance*

Compliance

Subject: Revised IDEA-B Regulations Pertaining to Maintaining Fiscal Effort
Deanna Wickes, Dwickes@esc6.net, 936-435-8258

Revised IDEA-B Regulations Pertaining to Maintaining Fiscal Effort

On April 28, 2015, final regulations related to IDEA-B LEA MOE were published in the Federal Register.

[Revised 34 CFR 300.203](#)

Refer to Table 8 in the link above for information on the MOE Eligibility Standard. The 2015-2016 BS6016 schedule set for production may not fully reflect the exact language from the final rule. However, TEA anticipates that the **instructions** to the BS6016 will provide clear guidance which aligns with the final rule to instruct LEA on how to complete the BS6016 eligibility standard. The BS6016 is a schedule within the SPED Consolidated grant application.

The 2015-16 SPED Consolidated grant application with the BS6016 schedule is anticipated to open by the end of May.

The new regulations are effective on July 1, 2015

Subject: Cost of Mandates Report

Steve Johnson, sjohnson@esc6.net, 936-435-8290

TASA/TASB Release Updated Report on School District Mandates: Cost Drivers in Public Education

Each legislative session, TASA and TASB update the *Report on School District Mandates*, a comprehensive list of state mandates placed on school districts that contribute significantly to the rising costs of public education. The document, first compiled in 2002, encompasses the majority of mandates passed since 1995 but does not contain a complete list of all mandates on Texas school districts. It includes only those Texas laws and regulations that are likely to impose significant implementation costs either collectively or by themselves.

The goal of the revised report is to assist school leaders in identifying the most significant unfunded or underfunded mandates and in calculating the cost of implementing those mandates in their districts. School officials can help legislators understand the number of unfunded or underfunded mandates imposed on school districts by quantifying the costs of existing mandates, estimating the costs of mandates proposed during subsequent legislative sessions, and continuing to dialogue with their legislative representatives.

[Download the 2015 report.](#)

May 20, 2015 Joint Meeting Superintendents and Business Officers

Subject: May 20, 2015 Superintendent Meeting
Steve Johnson, sjohnson@esc6.net, 936-435-8290

Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and Other Applicable Grant Regulations

Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 75-79, 81 to 86 and 97-99 EDGAR is currently in transition. For awards made prior to 12/26/2014, EDGAR Parts 74 and 80 still apply. For awards made on or after 12/26/2014, 2 CFR Part 200, which includes the substance formerly in parts 74 and 80, applies.

If all of this sounds Greek to you then please plan to attend the May 20, 2015 Superintendent Meeting where this topic will be the spotlight of the session. In addition the agenda will include a legislative update as related to the business operations of the district. Mr. Lucas Janda, CFO from the Leander ISD, will share insights to the impact of various proposed legislative actions.

Contracts between school districts and ESC 6 will be a portion of the May 20th agenda as well. Notebooks for each individual district depicting current status and other informative items are being developed for each district and will be distributed at the session.

Please mark your calendar for May 20th and bring with you your business officer and any other staff members that you feel would be appropriate for the topics on the agenda. [Register here!](#)

TASB Summer Leadership Institutes

	San Antonio	Fort Worth
2016	June 16-18	June 30-July 2
2017	June 15-17	June 22-24
2018	June 14-16	June 28-30

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 20th Superintendent's Meeting

Please plan to join with your colleagues for the May 20th Joint Meeting of Superintendents and Business Officers as they recognize those individuals that plan to retire at the end of this school year. You will want to be there to thank those that have served for many years the children in various school districts across Region 6.

[Register here!](#)

Upcoming Superintendent Meetings

Dr. Steve Johnson, sjohnson@esc6.net, 936-435-8290

May 20, 2015	ESC 6	Topic: EDGAR, Legislative Update, 2015-2016 Contracts
June 17-19, 2015	South Shore Harbour	Summer Retreat
September 16, 2015	ESC 6	Topic: Wrap-up 84th Legislature
October 21, 2015	ESC 6	Topic: TBD
November 18, 2015	ESC 6	Topic: TBD
January 26, 2016	Austin	TASA Mid-Winter Conference Breakfast
February 17, 2016	ESC 6	Topic: TBD
April 20, 2016	ESC 6	Topic: TBD
May 18, 2016	ESC 6	Joint Meeting of Superintendents and Business Officers
June 22-24, 2016	South Shore Harbour	Tentative Dates and Location for Summer Retreat