

The TSSSA Newsletter



WINTER 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Pen	1
TEA Social Studies Update	3
Spring Conference Information	4
Important Dates	4
Spring Conference Registration	5
Call for Presenters	6
Social Studies Supervisor of the Year	7
Officer Membership Application	8
TSSSA Membership Application	9
State Board of Education Members	10
Executive Board	11

THINKING STRATEGICALLY IN 2008

I'm convinced that the winter season may provide our best opportunity of the year for rest and reflection. The holidays seem to give us a real break, a time where the education system refrains from scheduling the next big thing. It is a time when we are not scurrying from deadline to deadline, and as my Dad would say, we can actually "hear ourselves think." It's thus a great opportunity to "think strategically," which as you recall is TSSSA's theme for the year.



Greg Byers

And 2008 is an ideal year for strategic thinking in social studies. Change is definitely on the horizon, but this time we are blessed with some time to plan for it. So we can put on our thinking caps, get involved, and work together with our colleagues to meet the new challenges with vision and insight.

Of course, the preparations for implementing social studies end-of-course tests have already begun. Although the first mandatory EOC's will be administered to ninth graders in 2012, TEA is already working with social studies educators to begin developing objectives and student expectations. Once that task is completed, item development won't be far behind. TEA urges teachers and supervisors to apply to serve on educator committees to assist in this vital work. Working together with the Agency, we can contribute our strategic thinking to a project that will have a major impact on our programs and our students.

More pressing and equally important to social studies in Texas is the TEKS review process currently underway by the State Board of Education. Review of the social studies TEKS has not been scheduled, but it could begin as early as the coming year. Members of the SBOE will appoint the review committee, and it should be our goal that they appoint as many social studies educators as possible. Now is the time for supervisors and teachers to express to Board members their keen interest in the TEKS and

Our Mission:

THE TEXAS SOCIAL STUDIES
SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
PLEDGES TO PROMOTE LIFELONG
LEARNING THROUGH SOCIAL
STUDIES EDUCATION AND TO
SUPPORT EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION
IN TEXAS SCHOOLS.

Please see "Thinking Strategically in 2008" on Page 2

the review process. It is critical that the K-12 social studies community be a key participant.

Another way our profession can make a strong impact on the TEKS review process is to speak with a single voice about the specific refinements that need to be made. I am convinced that most Texas social studies educators believe that the TEKS provide a sound curriculum for our students. Virtually all of the supervisors and teachers I have spoken with agree that some refinements are needed but that a wholesale rewrite would be disruptive to the effective programs that are already in place.

Our goal should be to follow the example established by the science professional organizations by presenting a suggested refined document for K-12 social studies to the State Board of Education. Members of the SBOE have been very receptive to the proactive stance taken by science educators in presenting a refined and finished document that reflects the thoughts of teachers and supervisors and speaks for the major stakeholders impacted by the TEKS.

To achieve that goal, TSSSA and TCSS have adopted a joint resolution that supports this approach and are working together to put it in place. The plan includes an opportunity for educators and others who are interested in social studies to provide input into the development of the refined TEKS document. TCSS has generously provided space on their website for a survey where stakeholders can support existing TEKS and suggest refinements. (Please add your thoughts at www.txcss.org.) This spring, a TCSS/TSSSA steering committee will form review committees to address input from the surveys and develop suggested refinements. A subject area advisory council made up of representatives of organizations from various social studies disciplines will review the committee reports and provide feedback. The goal will be to present the finished

document to the State Board of Education when its social studies review committee begins work.

And if that isn't a project that relies on "strategic thinking," then I'm not sure what is!

These efforts will give us plenty to talk about at our Spring Conference on March 27-28, 2008 in Austin at the Airport Hilton. In addition, Tina Melcher, President-Elect, is planning a program of informative sessions and dynamic keynote speakers. We'll have an opportunity to hear the latest from TEA, experience the Hilton's hospitality, and work together on the important issues that face us.

So enjoy the season, settle down for some long winter's naps, and do some strategic thinking. We look forward to hearing from you, and we'll see you in Austin in March.

"ANOTHER WAY OUR PROFESSION CAN MAKE A STRONG IMPACT ON THE TEKS REVIEW PROCESS IS TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC REFINEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE MADE."

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR S.S. TEKS REFINEMENT!

The Social Studies TEKS Refinement Survey is now posted on the TCSS website and the TSSSA website.

We need your teachers and you to give your input in the refinement of the social studies TEKS by using this online survey. *Let your voices be heard!!*

www.txcss.org • www.tsssa.org

TEA Social Studies Update

By **ROSEMARY MORROW, PHD**

Director of Social Studies

Division of Curriculum

Texas Education Agency

Welcome to the spring semester of the 2007-2008 school year. The TEA Social Studies Curriculum Team is preparing for a busy 2008. The voluntary United States History End-of-Course assessment is being finalized for a May 2008 on-line field test, and the World Geography End-of-Course assessment is in the early stages of development for implementation for students entering the ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year. Phase I of the College Readiness Standards is complete, and the vertical teams are gearing up for Phase II. Social studies TEKS review is scheduled to begin after the science TEKS review. More information will be forthcoming. In October 2007, Julie Brelsford joined the team as Assistant Director of Social Studies from the Assessment Division at TEA, where she was a social studies program specialist.

A special welcome goes to Julie Rhame Brelsford, the new Assistant Director of Social Studies. She was born in Seymour, Texas, and reared in Fort Worth. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin and worked on her teacher certification at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State at San Marcos). She taught Resource Reading and Resource Social Studies for five years before teaching Contemporary World Cultures, Texas History and U.S. History six years at Llano Middle School in Llano ISD. Mrs. Brelsford is married to John Brelsford, who ranches in Llano County, and she is the mother of three sons: one is on his own, the middle son is a student at Texas A&M University, and the youngest son is a senior at Llano High

School. Outside of her professional career, she volunteers at her church and with a number of charitable organizations.

The TEKS review process is moving forward. English language arts and reading TEKS are in the final stages of revision and will go to the State Board of Education (SBOE) for first reading this spring. The science TEKS review process is just getting under way, along with career and technical education. The beginning of the social studies TEKS review process will start after the science TEKS review.

The draft College Readiness Standards public comment period ended on December 10, 2007. In response to the public comments, the vertical teams reconvened this month to review the draft College Readiness Standards. Their decisions will be incorporated into the document and presented for consideration and adoption at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting on January 24, 2008.

The Assessment Division at TEA is busy continuing work on social studies Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessments, while phasing in development and field testing of End-of-Course assessments for high school world geography, world history, and United States history. Educator committees continue to be integral parts of the assessment development process.

Best wishes for a successful 2008!

Spring Conference

2008 TSSSA SPRING CONFERENCE

Please plan to join us for the 2008 TSSSA Spring Conference in Austin. This year's conference will be held at the Austin Airport Hilton on March 27 and 28. The theme of the conference will be "Strategic Thinking in Social Studies." We will be hosting two outstanding keynote speakers this year. They will be James Percoco and Peter Pappas. There will also be breakout sessions, reports from TEA and the State Board of Education and the presentation of the

Supervisor of the Year Award and the Ann Rogers Scholarship. Breakfast and lunch will be served on both days with an afternoon reception on Thursday. Reasonably priced shuttle service is available from the hotel to key locations in Austin. The deadline for submitting Call for Presenters forms for breakout session is February 15, so get those in soon. We hope to see everyone at the conference for two days of learning, networking, and fun!

Mark Your Calendars

TSSSA CONFERENCES

March 27-29, 2008
Airport Hilton, Austin

October 23, 2008
San Antonio

March 26-28, 2009
Airport Hilton, Austin

TCSS CONFERENCE*

October 24-26, 2008
San Antonio

NCSS CONFERENCE

Nov. 14-16, 2008
Houston

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

January 17-18
February 13
March 27-28
April 21
May 22-23
July 17-18
September 18-19
November 20-21

TETN MEETINGS

January 29, 10 a.m.
May 29, 10 a.m.
July 24, 10 a.m.
September 25, 10 a.m.
November 25, 10 a.m.

*The theme for the TCSS Conference in San Antonio in October 2008 is "Mission of Discovery"

For more information, log onto
www.tsssa.org
www.socialstudies.org/nssa

Spring Conference Registration

TSSSA Spring Conference "Strategic Thinking in Social Studies"

Hilton Austin Airport March 27-28, 2008

Please print the following information:

Name _____
Employer/School District _____
Preferred Mailing Address _____
City _____ Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____ Fax number _____
E-Mail address _____

Early Bird Registration (payment must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 11th) \$150

Regular Registration (if payment is postmarked after Tuesday, March 11th) \$165

Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch.

TOTAL _____

Payment MUST BE BY CHECK made out to TSSSA.

No P.O.s are accepted. Districts should use the registration form as the invoice.

Mail registration to Nancy Bray, 1800 Timber Creek Rd., Flower Mound, TX 75028

Registration questions? Contact brayn@lisd.net (469) 948-8090 (972) 355-6287 (fax)

Conference questions? Contact tina.melcher@esc13.txed.net (512)919-5425 or

greg.byers@aliefisd.net.

Hotel Information:

Hilton Austin Airport
9515 New Airport Drive,
Austin, Texas, 78719
Tel: (512) 385-6767
Fax: (512) 385-6763

\$85.00 single / \$110.00 double



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received _____

Check amount _____

Check # _____

Call for Presenters

TSSSA SPRING CONFERENCE

March 27-28, 2008, Hilton Austin Airport, Austin, Texas

Theme: *Strategic Thinking in Social Studies*

TSSSA is seeking presenters for the 2008 spring conference. Presentations should be aligned to this year's theme but format flexibility is encouraged. Please do not submit sessions that are intended to promote the sale of commercial products.



Sessions should include content and strategies designed to:

- Alternative strategies for dealing with TAKS failures
- Strategies for teaching students from a poverty background
- Reading in the content area
- Integrating primary sources
- Strategies for teaching English language learners
- Closing the achievement gap
- Project-based learning
- Revising the TEKS
- Implementing technology in the social studies classroom
- Pre-AP and AP social studies
- Building academic vocabulary in social studies

If you are interested in presenting at the spring conference, please complete the information requested below and return to:

Tina Melcher

ESC Region XIII

5701 Springdale Road

Austin, Texas 78723

Deadline: February 15, 2008

Phone: 512-919-5425

Email: Tina.melcher@esc13.txed.net

FAX: (512) 919-5215

Attach a title and description of your presentation for our conference program (50 words or less).

Name _____

District or Affiliation _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ Email _____

Title of Presentation _____

Description of session _____

Technology Needs: Screens will be provided but LCD and Computers will not. If this is a problem, please share your concerns and we will try to accommodate you.

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

SOCIAL STUDIES SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Nominees for TSSSA Supervisor of the Year must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a current member of TSSSA and a current member of NSSSA. (The TSSSA Supervisor of the Year is automatically nominated for the National Social Studies Supervisor of the Year Award.)
2. Should exemplify the leadership role of a social studies supervisor, although the nominee does not have to hold a supervisory title.

NOMINATION MATERIALS:

- Information requested below.
- Description of the position held by nominee.
- Description of 250 words or less explaining why the candidate is being nominated.
- Vita of nominee: schooling, positions held, professional memberships, activities.
- Support materials (up to 5 pages): May include letters of support from colleagues, administrators, professional acquaintances, students, parents, as well as, newspaper articles, miscellaneous information to help us know the nominee better.

Send five (5) copies of completed nomination and materials (no later than Monday, February 18, 2008) to:

Nancy Hester
Georgetown I.S.D.
603 Lakeway Dr.
Georgetown, TX 78628
(512-943-5000x7882)

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 18, 2008

NAME OF NOMINEE

School/School District

City	State	Zip	Business FAX number
------	-------	-----	---------------------

Business phone number	Business email address	Home email address
-----------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Home address	City	Zip code
--------------	------	----------

NAME OF NOMINATOR

School/ School District

City	State	Zip Code	Business FAX number
------	-------	----------	---------------------

Business email address	Business phone number	Home email address
------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Home address

City	State	Zip Code	Home phone number
------	-------	----------	-------------------

Officer Interest Form

TSSSA Officer Interest Form 2008-2009

If you are interested in running for a TSSSA office, please complete the section below:

Name: _____

Title: _____

School District: _____

School District Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Work E-mail address: _____

Office(s) you would prefer:	President-Elect	3 Year Commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Secretary	2 Year Term	<input type="checkbox"/>

Send to:

- Greg Byers - 12302 High Star, Houston, TX 77072 greg.byers@aliefisd.net
- or -
- Nancy Hester - 603 Lakeway Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628 hestern@georgetownisd.org

TSSSA Membership Application

TSSSA pledges to promote lifelong learning through social studies education and to support effective instruction in Texas' schools

New Member

Renewing Member

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

Address where you prefer to receive TSSSA information and confirmations:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

WORK FAX: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT: _____

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER: _____

REGION: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Membership dues are \$10.00 a year and cover from April to April of each year.

*WITH 316 ACTIVE MEMBERS, TSSSA
SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL STUDIES
SUPERVISORS STATEWIDE.*

Please mail application to:
Joe Ramirez
TSSSA, VP-Membership
Austin ISD
1111 W. 6th
Austin, Texas 78703

State Board of Education

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

<p>District 1 Rene Nunez 1521 Upton Drive El Paso 79902 915-351-9923</p>	<p>District 6 Terri Leo 23516 Twin Oaks RR#5 Spring 77389 281-257-0836</p>	<p>District 11 Patricia "Pat" Hardy 900 N. Elm Weatherford 76086 817-598-2968</p>
<p>District 2 Mary Helen Berlanga 2727 Morgan Ave. Corpus Christi 78405 361-881-1000</p>	<p>District 7 David Bradley 2165 North Street Beaumont 77701 409-835-3808</p>	<p>District 12 Geraldine Miller 5001 Spring Valley Rd. Dallas 75244 972-419-4000</p>
<p>District 3 Rick Agosto 205 N. Presa, Suite 8200 San Antonio 78205 210-226-7106</p>	<p>District 8 Barbara Cargill 61 W. Wedgemere Circle The Woodlands 77381 281-465-8095</p>	<p>District 13 Mavis B. Knight P.O. Box 76337 Dallas 75376 214-333-9675</p>
<p>District 4 Lawrence A. Allen, Jr. 4302 Grapevine Houston 77045 713-433-4643</p>	<p>District 9 Don McLeroy 3707 Tanglewood Bryan 77802 979-255-2538</p>	<p>District 14 Gail Lowe 11 Chris Avenue Lampasas 76550 512-556-6262</p>
<p>District 5 Ken Mercer P.O. Box 781301 San Antonio 78278 210-355-2884</p>	<p>District 10 Cynthia Noland Dunbar 22123 Skyridge Lane Richmond 77469 512-463-9007</p>	<p>District 15 Bob Craig P.O. Box 1979 Lubbock 79408 806-744-3232</p>

TSSSA Executive Board

GREG BYERS, PRESIDENT-ELECT

Alief ISD
12302 High Star
Houston, Texas 77079
Work (281) 498-8110 x 5700
Fax (281) 983-1663
greg.byers@aliefisd.net

TINA MELCHER, PRESIDENT-ELECT

ESC Region XIII
5701 Springdale Rd.
Austin, Texas 78723
Work (512) 919-5425
Fax (512) 919-5215
tiny.melcher@esc13.txed.net

CINDY TRUITT, SECRETARY

Robert E. Lee High School
Midland ISD
3500 Neely Ave.
Midland, Texas 79707
Work (432) 689-1631
Fax (432) 689-1647
ctrutt@esc18.net

JOE RAMIREZ, VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP

Austin ISD
1111 W. 6th St.
Austin, Texas 78703
Work (512) 414-4690
Fax (512) 414-9968
joramire@austinisd.org

JULIE HYMAN, TREASURER

Birdville ISD
3120 Carson St.
Haltom City, Texas 76117
Work (817) 547-5807
Fax (817) 547-5806
julia_hyman@birdville.k12.tx.us

NANCY BRAY, CONFERENCE CHAIR

Lewisville ISD
1800 Timber Creek Rd.,
Flower Mound, TX 75028
Work (972) 539-1551
Fax (972) 355-6287
brayn@lisd.net

IMMA JEANNE ALEXANDER, NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Wichita Falls ISD
P.O. Box 97533
Wichita Falls, TX 76307
Work (940) 720-4991
Fax (940) 720-3255
ialexander@wffisd.net

NANCY HESTER, PAST-PRESIDENT

Georgetown ISD
603 Lakeway Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78628
Work (512) 943-5000 ex.7882
hestern@georgetownisd.org
nhester@austin.rr.com

AMY THIBAUT, TCSS PRESIDENT

Spring Branch ISD
4307 Firestone
Houston, Texas 77035
Work (713) 376-0940
athibaut@sbcglobal.net

ROSEMARY MORROW

Director of Social Studies
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress
Austin, TX 78701
Work (512) 463-9581
Fax (512) 463-8057
rosemary.morrow@tea.state.tx.us

DON'T FORGET!

TCSS

CONFERENCE

October 24-26, 2008
San Antonio

TSSSA

CONFERENCES

March 27-29, 2008
Airport Hilton, Austin

March 26-28, 2009
Airport Hilton, Austin

