

Lewisville ISD Frequently Asked Questions Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

This website is designed to address frequently asked questions regarding the Common Core State Standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. We understand that the education of your child and the academic standards students are expected to learn are extremely important to our community. If you have a question that is not addressed below please email curriculum@lisd.net.

What are the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)?

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts the state curriculum, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The SBOE has statutory authority to identify the essential knowledge and skills for the state as outlined by Texas Education Code 28.002. To view the TEKS [click here](#).

How does LISD develop district curriculum?

LISD content area administrators have curriculum writing teams made up of LISD teachers and instructional experts. These teams develop study units based on the TEKS. Teachers utilize these study units as they collaboratively plan and develop weekly and/or daily lesson plans.

Why does LISD utilize curriculum writing teams to develop curriculum, instead of simply purchasing a curriculum?

The LISD Board of Trustees believes in the importance of local control and the expertise of LISD teachers and staff. In 2006, the LISD Board and administration took purposeful steps to establish a curriculum and instruction department housed within the division of Learning and Teaching. This ensures that the local expertise from our teachers and the curriculum and instruction team are used to create the curriculum.

What is the difference between instructional materials and the LISD curriculum?

In LISD, instructional materials are used only as a resource, not as the curriculum. When teachers utilize the LISD curriculum to plan their lessons, they use varied resources that enhance and enrich the instructional strategies to meet the diverse needs of students. LISD uses instructional materials aligned to the TEKS and district curriculum.

What are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

The CCSS are a set of academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. At this time 43 states have adopted these standards. Texas has not adopted the CCSS. In fact, House Bill 462, passed during the 83rd legislative session, prohibits the SBOE from adopting these standards.

Does LISD utilize the Common Core State Standards?

No. House Bill 462 specifically states that school districts may not use the CCSS. According to Texas Administrative Code §74.1 school districts are required to teach the TEKS for identified courses and grade levels.

Were the TEKS developed by the SBOE in response to the CCSS?

No. Texas has a long history of using academic standards to outline expectations for student learning in public schools. The first generation of academic standards in Texas, known as *essential elements*, was implemented in Texas schools in 1984. The TEKS represent the second generation of standards in Texas and was implemented in 1996. The SBOE is required to review and revise the TEKS. To view the upcoming TEKS revision cycle [click here](#).

Why would any instructional materials utilized in Texas even reference CCSS?

While the TEKS were developed in Texas, there is overlap between the two sets of academic standards. In June 2014, former Attorney General (AG) Greg Abbott responded to House Bill 462 acknowledging there are overlapping concepts in the TEKS and CCSS. School districts are not in violation of the law when using instructional materials where the two standards overlap. (To read AG opinion click [here](#))

Unfortunately, in an effort to be competitive, publishers market their materials with stickers and graphics stating they are aligned or support Common Core. These publishers do not publish texts just for Texas and use this as a marketing strategy to sell materials in the states that have adopted the Common Core.

What steps can LISD take to ensure instructional resources utilized are aligned to the TEKS?

During the last two years, LISD content area specialists work with teacher selection committees to select state adopted materials meeting 100% of the TEKS, which have been through the state adoption process directed by the SBOE. Instructional materials are not used to implement the CCSS.

In an effort to ensure all instructional materials are aligned with the TEKS, publishers are required to provide a document or searchable database identifying where its materials align to the TEKS.

In addition, the district will hold teacher professional learning sessions reinforcing the state's commitment to the TEKS and instructional material alignment as well as our community's concerns regarding CCSS.

Where can I find information regarding the recent changes to mathematics?

In order to understand why there have been changes in mathematics TEKS, visit the elementary and/or secondary math websites under Learning and Teaching

Who can I talk to if I am unhappy with the TEKS, or think they look too much like Common Core?

The State Board of Education regularly reviews curriculum standards and makes revisions that all schools must implement. If you have any concerns about the TEKS, you can contact the SBOE via email at sboeteks@tea.state.tx.us.