

What Teachers Need to Know About...

The New ELAR Revised TEKS

by Traci Seils, ELAR Coordinator

- Implementation is required by law *this* school year (2009-2010). There is no phase-in year.
- Changes in the TEKS are **significant**, unlike previous draft versions put out by TEA for review. “Revised TEKS” is a nice way of putting it. This is more like a brand new version!
- The TAKS test has *already changed* in response to the new TEKS – old test items not fitting the new TEKS have been removed.
- Field test items for the TEKS not previously tested on TAKS will be included the next two years until the revised version of TAKS is used in 2012.
- At high school changes to TAKS will not impact our 10th & 11th graders as they will meet exit requirements under the old version of TAKS, but it will impact students needing to pass the End of Course (EOC) exam for English that is currently being developed.
- You need to teach the new TEKS this year for another reason – there is not the redundancy we had in our old TEKS, so when the test changes in 2 years there will be items the students have never seen if we don’t begin using the new TEKS today. The new TEKS build upon each other each year with *very little repetition* in the skills and concepts taught from grade level to grade level.
- The TEKS specify *what* will be taught, but not *how* and *in what order*. Therefore, scope & sequence and other curriculum work, training in instructional strategies, and lesson planning will need to occur based on the new TEKS.
- CSCOPE will provide the Vertical Alignment Documents (VADs), Instructional Focus Documents (IFDs), and Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) documents, but not the exemplar lessons for ELA/Reading this year. Teachers will need to develop lessons based on the scope & sequence in the IFDs. It is **not** recommended that teachers use the old lessons, since they will not adequately prepare students for the 2012 TAKS test.
- Region VI provided ELAR TEKS training for teachers this summer and will continue to offer these free sessions for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, & 9-12 that include a vertical alignment chart and glossary of terms.
- The new ELAR TEKS are also available on the TEA website at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/index.html>. They are at the bottom of the page following the old version of the TEKS, so scroll down to see the 2009-2010 TEKS.
- Your ESC Region VI contact is Traci Seils at tseils@esc6.net or 936-435-8220.