

San Antonio Independent School District

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Technology and Management Information Systems

TO: 6-8 Campus Principals

FROM: Dr. Iris Amon, Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: Technology Applications:TEKS Integration Initiative:
Instructional Materials for Grade 6-8 Students

DATE: August 1, 2005

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

As you know, SAISD's Vision 2009--as well as No Child Left Behind--calls for "students, teachers, and administrators of SAISD to effectively integrate technology into the teaching and learning in the District." Lack of funding has often proven to be an obstacle to technology integration in core content areas. Recent funding from the Texas Education Agency now enables SAISD to extend an initiative begun in 2003 with publication of the Grades 6-8 TA:TEKS Curriculum.

This continuing initiative establishes the following goals with support from the Texas Education Agency:

- Equip our students with the necessary skills and learning environments that provide rich opportunities for them to find and utilize current information and resources, and apply academic skills for solving real-world problems.
- Prepare teachers with the skills needed to begin applying strategies for using technology for learning, collaborating and communicating.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Texas Education Agency is now funding teaching materials for Technology Applications in grades 6-8 that supports the technology TEKS at each grade level. An SAISD textbook committee adopted Technology Applications online instructional materials last year for the coming school year. This is a six year adoption. The publisher selected for the grades 6-8 is McGraw-Hill's *TechConnect*. The adoption was approved by the SAISD School Board for use in schools. This adoption will affect classroom teachers, as well as any TA:TEKS 1-semester course teachers you may now have.

Grade 6-8 campuses will continue to address TA:TEKS through a 1-semester course. In addition to the 1-semester course, core content teachers will also be expected to begin integration of Technology Applications into core content. *The core content TA:TEKS curriculum, while complementary to the 1-semester TA:TEKS Course now in SAISD schools, does not supplant the course or vice versa.*

CAMPUS IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

To ensure successful implementation of the *TA:TEKS Integration Initiative*, four to five professional members of your existing campus technology planning committee should be utilized in the creation of the committee.

Whoever you choose will form the *Campus TA:TEKS Implementation Committee*. We recommend

the committee be comprised of a CIC/CIT, a librarian, and three classroom teachers. You will need to provide Instructional Technology with the names and email addresses of these individuals. The deadline for providing Instructional Technology with contact information is **September 1, 2005**. Committee membership information can be submitted online via the CTR Data Center online at <http://itls.saisd.net>

Responsibilities of the committee will be as follows:

- Scheduling TA:TEKS Curriculum Training for Committee Members through the Office of Instructional Technology
- Make arrangements for sharing professional learning with campus teachers.
- Ensure campus, *core-content* grade 6-8 teachers receive materials for implementation. Materials will be shared during campus training.
- Be aware that grade 6-8 TA:TEKS 1 semester course teachers will have already received information about a scope and sequence that expands beyond what Technology Applications:TEKS may be addressed through core-content.

You can send your Campus TA:TEKS Implementation Committee for training on the days outlined online at <http://itls.saisd.net/tateks>

Please contact the Office of Instructional Technology Services or Miguel Guhlin via email at mguhlin@saisd.net or at 527-1400, if you have any questions.