



Science Communications
Texas Education Agency
January 25, 2017

Please do not respond to this e-mail. This is a one-way communication.

Greetings, Science Bulletin Members,

Topics included in this bulletin:

- State Board of Education’s Proposed Amendments to Science TEKS
- National Youth Science Camp Applications
- Nominations and Applications for the 2017 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Additional information is included as a courtesy to educators.

- WeTeach_Computer Science Principles Mini-Conference
- Solar Eclipse Competition
- Lone Star Leadership Academy - Call for Outstanding Student Nominations
- American Physical Society Teacher Professional Development
- Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grant Program
- McDonald Observatory 2017 Teacher Professional Development Workshops

State Board of Education’s Proposed Amendments to Science TEKS

The State Board of Education (SBOE) will consider for first reading and filing authorization proposed amendments to streamline the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for science at their next meeting on January 31- February 3, 2017. If approved, the proposed TEKS will be filed with the *Texas Register* and the official public comment period will begin soon after.

A public hearing on amendments to the science TEKS is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Registration to provide testimony at this public hearing can be found at

[http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Leadership/State Board of Education/SBOE Meetings](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Leadership/State_Board_of_Education/SBOE_Meetings)

[/Public Testimony Registration Instructions and Procedures/](#). The Committee of the Full Board is scheduled to address the science TEKS item on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. You may view the agenda items online at <http://tea.texas.gov/sboe/agenda/>.

A live webcast of the SBOE meeting will be available online at <http://tea.texas.gov/sboe/webcast/>. Recorded meeting proceedings will be archived on the same site later that day.

The TEKS streamlining committees' final recommendations will be posted at [http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Curriculum Standards/TEKS Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\) Review/Science TEKS Streamlining/](http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Curriculum_Standards/TEKS_Texas_Essential_Knowledge_and_Skills_(TEKS)_Review/Science_TEKS_Streamlining/). Please share this information with your colleagues who may be interested.

National Youth Science Camp Applications

The application window is open for the National Youth Science Camp, an intense month-long camp for young scientists during the summer after they graduate from high school.

Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent Texas at the all-expense-paid honors program. Applications will be due by March 1, 2017. Students can create an account and complete the application at <http://apply.nysc.org>.

Nominations and Applications for the 2017 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The 2016-2017 nomination and application windows for grades 7-12 mathematics and science teachers for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program are open. The PAEMST awards are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. AP Computer Science teachers may apply under the mathematics category. High school teachers who teach a Career and Technical Education (CTE) or a Technology Applications course that can satisfy a mathematics or science graduation credit may apply under the appropriate category. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on the behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The 2016-2017 nomination window will close on April 1, 2017, and the application window will close on May 1, 2017. Teachers may be nominated for the award or may apply themselves at www.paemst.org. If you know great teachers, encourage them to join this prestigious network of professionals. In Texas, eligible teachers who submit a completed application by May 1, 2017 will receive 25 CPE hours.

For questions, contact Jo Ann Bilderback at tx_paemst@tea.texas.gov or 512-463-9581.

Additional information is included as a courtesy to educators.

WeTeach_CS Computer Science Principles Mini-Conference

The WeTeach_CS Computer Science Principles Mini-Conference, held in Austin, Texas on February 20 - 21, 2017, will offer a variety of resources for teachers of AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP). Sessions will include panel discussions and hands-on workshop-style presentations. Attendees will also have an opportunity to collaborate across schools and districts to brainstorm plans for developing four-year CS pathways in Texas high schools. This year's event will feature cohorts for both new and experienced AP CSP teachers. To address each cohort of teachers, WeTeach_CS is bringing in CSP instructors from around the state and the nation, including representatives of [Code.org](http://code.org), the College Board, UTeach CS, Beauty and Joy of Computing (UC Berkeley), Mobile CSP, and Project Lead the Way.

More information and registration are available at <https://www.weteachcs.org/events/csp-mc-2017/>.

Solar Eclipse Competition

Texas Space Grant Consortium is conducting a Solar Eclipse Competition for Texas in-service teachers. The 2017 solar eclipse provides a spectacular opportunity to help students more fully understand the relationships between the Earth, Moon and Sun, their movements, and their characteristics. For information, please visit: www.tsgc.utexas.edu/eclipse/. Ten teachers will be selected and flown from Dallas to Nashville to view the Solar Eclipse.

Lone Star Leadership Academy - Call for Outstanding Student Nominations

[Nominate your outstanding 4th-8th graders](#) for summer 2017 Lone Star Leadership Academy camps! Participants travel to the Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin/San Antonio, or Houston/Galveston area to join delegations of other distinguished students from across Texas for a week of fun, learning, leadership development, and visits to significant Texas destinations. Each day participants explore notable Texas sites, learn about unique careers from professionals, and work in small groups to develop specific leadership skills. In addition to improving their leadership abilities, participants gain self-confidence and independence and develop new friendships with other high-achieving students from across the state. Tuition to attend the Lone Star Leadership Academy covers lodging for five nights, food, transportation to events during the program, and more. Financial aid opportunities are available. Nominees must be in 4th-8th grade, maintain an 85 or higher average, demonstrate leadership ability, and be involved in school/community activities. The nomination deadline is Friday, February 3, 2017. Nominate your outstanding 4th-8th graders online at: <http://educationinaction.org/nominate-leaders>.

American Physical Society (APS) Teacher Professional Development

The APS Online Teacher Professional Development program is a dynamic interactive virtual learning community that focuses on exploring effective teaching strategies, understanding the research process, and enhancing classroom resources for middle & high school science teachers. Fellows receive stipends for completion of their online work of \$1,400 and graduate credit is available. The application deadline is January 31, 2017. Educators may learn more at <http://www.the-aps.org/OT>.

Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grant Program

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation offers the NOAA-21st CCLC Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grant program. The purpose of this program is to bring place-based and STEM-focused environmental education programming to new partners in an informal setting that connects U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers with NOAA science. Eligible applicants are those that have participated in NOAA's B-WET program as a grant recipient or major partner. The deadline for application is February 11, 2017. Information about the grant is on the blog at <https://www.marinesanctuary.org/about-us/blog/>.

McDonald Observatory 2017 Teacher Professional Development Workshops

McDonald Observatory is now accepting applications for its Summer 2017 K-12 teacher professional development workshops. McDonald Observatory will be offering five scholarship workshops during summer 2017. All workshops will be located at McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains in west Texas. Each workshop is a 3 day / 2 night program. Scholarships cover most workshop expenses including food, lodging and program fees; participants are responsible for their own travel expenses. Available workshops begin in mid-June 2017 and run through July 2017. Workshop topics include solar system science, exoplanets, galaxies, telescopes and more. The deadline to apply for McDonald Observatory teacher workshops is February 6, 2017. More details for each of the workshops and the online application form can be found at: <https://mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev>.

Contact Keely Finkelstein at keelyf@astro.as.utexas.edu with any questions.