

GEOGRAPHY IN THE TEXAS K-12 CURRICULUM (2019)

Prepared by the Texas Alliance of Geographic Education

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I. OVERVIEW

Several key factors that affect the status of K-12 geography education in Texas.

- 1) Geography standards are specifically included as a strand in the social studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards for grades K-12.
- 2) The science standards also include a substantial amount of physical geography, especially fifth grade science.
- 3) Three geospatial technology courses are approved as innovative Career Technology Education courses by the Texas Education Agency:
 - i. Geographic Information Systems,
 - ii. Raster-Based Geographic Information Systems, and
 - iii. Spatial Technology & Remote Sensing.
- 4) In addition to the social studies geography strand, Texas offers five options for high school geography courses:
 - i. World Geography Studies (one credit),
 - ii. Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) World Geography (one credit),
 - iii. Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography (World Geography) (one credit),
 - iv. AP Human Geography (Elective) (half credit), and
 - v. International Baccalaureate (IB) Geography.

II. EDUCATIONAL POLICY CHANGES AND UPDATES (as of 12/11/2019)

Several policy changes that occurred over 2018-2019 that affect the status of K-12 geography education in Texas.

1. Streamlined Social Studies TEKS Adopted by State Board of Education

The State Board of Education (SBOE) gave final approval on November 16, 2018, to streamline social studies TEKS for K-8 and five high school social studies courses.

i. Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 5)

The streamlined social studies TEKS for Kindergarten-Grade 5 will be effective August 1, 2020 and implemented in classrooms **beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.**

ii. Secondary (Grades 6-8 and High School)

The streamlined social studies TEKS for middle school and high school are effective beginning August 1, 2019 and implemented in classrooms **beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.**

2. House Bill 3 and Geography Education

House Bill 3, a school finance bill, was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019 and signed by Gov. Greg Abbott. The bill provides more money for Texas classrooms, increases teacher compensation, reduces recapture and cuts local property taxes for Texas taxpayers.

HB 3 funds high school CTE and Tech Apps courses taught in the middle school in grades 7 and 8.

- Technology Applications – including all high school computer science and related courses in CTE funding
- Requires at least 55% of funds be spent on CTE (funding can now support CTE down to grade 7)
- Summer CTE grant program: \$5 million to provide access to CTE over the summer
- Grant applications will be released in fall of 2019

3. Implementing Career and Technical Education Programs and Programs of Study

Perkins V went into effect on July 1, 2019. This law reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. Perkins V reflects the 100-year federal commitment to CTE by providing federal support for CTE programs and focuses on improving the academic and technical achievement of CTE students, strengthening the connections between secondary and postsecondary education and improving accountability.

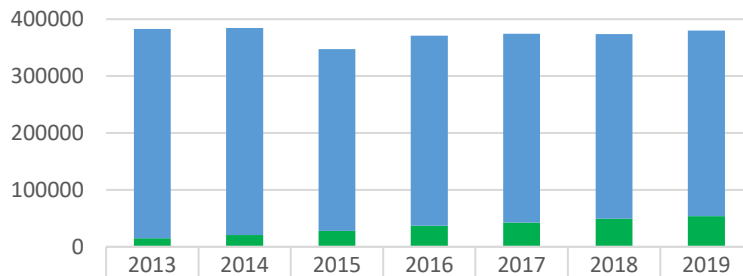
Texas is redesigning state level programs of study to include coherent and rigorous content with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content. Programs of study will be aligned with state and regional labor market information including high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations. To coincide with the timeline for Perkins V implementation, new programs of study will be available for district review and planning for the 2019-2020 school year and required for implementation in the 2020-2021 school year.

III. ENROLLMENT AND TEACHER FTE FOR GEOGRAPHY STRAND COURSES

2018-2019	GRADE LEVEL	TEACHER FTE COUNT	COURSE ENROLLMENT
Social Studies	Grades K-5	14,235.36	2,027,834
Social Studies	Grade 6	3113.65	409,142
Social Studies	Grade 7	3086.60	401,225
Social Studies	Grade 8	3279.19	402,509
World Geography Studies (3320100)	Grades 9-12	2,482.44	326,621
World History Studies (3340400)	Grades 9-12	2297.52	293,393
U.S. History Studies Since 1877	Grades 9-12	2482.24	290,255
United States Government	Grades 9-12	1318.63	155,076
AP Human Geography (World Geography)	Grades 9-12	338.91	53,134
AP Human Geography Elective	Grades 9-12	2.68	331
IB Geography Standard Level	Grades 9-12	0.47	17
IB Geography Higher Level	Grades 9-12	0.22	14
	TOTALS	32,486.57	4,359,551

Accessed 2019.12.11 from <https://rptsrv1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker>

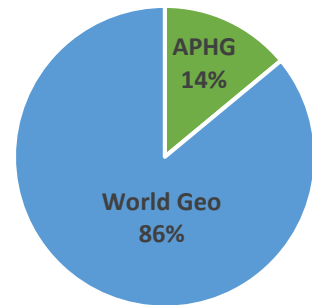
High School Geography Course Enrollments



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
World Geography	367,316	363,625	319,773	334,156	331,829	324,555	326,621
APHG	15,119	20,329	27,220	36,517	41,966	48,943	53,134
APHG elective				233	451	200	331
IB Geo	100	32	38		52	32	31
GIS CTE	131	385	537	347	207	130	161

■ GIS CTE ■ IB Geo ■ APHG elective ■ APHG ■ World Geography

High School Geography Course Enrollment 2019



IV. OVERVIEW OF AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY IN TEXAS – (As of 12/11/2019)

In Texas there are two options for APHG: a half credit elective, which may be taken in addition to World Geography Studies, and a one-credit substitute for the World Geography Studies course that must include the World Geography TEKS.

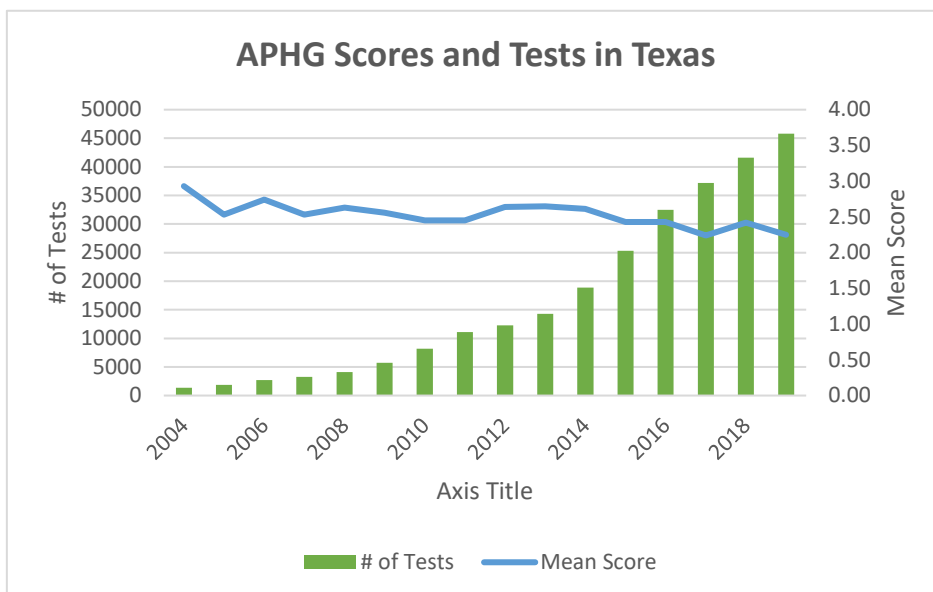
In 2019, 86% of students enrolled in a high school geography course took the World Geography Studies course with the remaining 14% taking APHG. Texas’ participation in the APHG continues to grow significantly each year, from 29 exams taken in 2001 to 45,781 exams in 2019.

The HB 22 accountability framework sets the stage for a significant change in the way the state of Texas examines school performance. In previous years, AP/IB enrollment was a component of the postsecondary readiness domain. This 2018 framework changes *enrollment in an AP/IB course* to “*meet criteria*” on the AP or IB examination as one of many measures for college, career, and military readiness.

Texas Summary 2019 - Human Geography. AP Score Distributions by Total and Ethnic Group.

AP Score	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic /Latino	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races	No Response	Texas Total	National Total
5	5	1339	90	530	1	1428	153	78	3624	23,479
4	10	1751	273	1436	3	2598	290	120	6481	40,020
3	21	1451	415	2422	4	3056	328	158	7856	44,367
2	29	985	490	2948	5	2543	273	162	7435	37,205
1	80	1171	2039	12,037	14	3952	507	585	20,385	76,233
Total	145	6697	3307	19,373	27	13577	1551	1103	45,781	221,304
Mean Score	1.83	3.16	1.76	1.73	1.96	2.63	2.55	2.04	2.25	2.54
% score 3 or above	25%	68%	24%	23%	30%	52%	50%	32%	39%	49%

Accessed 2019.12.11 from <https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/ap-2019>



AP Human Geography	
Texas	
	Mean Score
All	2.25
Males	2.33
Females	2.18
12 th Grade*	2.95
11 th Grade**	2.85
*704 tests, **1044 tests	

Other Social Studies Exams (Mean Score)		
	Texas	Nation
AP World History	2.47	2.75
AP U.S. History	2.42	2.71
AP Gov't & Pol (US)	2.43	2.73
AP Eco (Macro)	2.36	2.87