

College Readiness

Participation in the TPSP directly develops the skills and traits cited most often by higher education faculty as those necessary for success in post-secondary education – critical reasoning, problem-solving, academic integrity, and the abilities to conduct in-depth research and work independently. Thus, TPSP implementation helps districts achieve the goal adopted by the Texas P-16 Council to “ensure that every Texas student is college ready when exiting high school and is competitive in a global economy upon timely completion of a post-secondary degree.”

TPSP Assessment

The TPSP includes an assessment system that encourages high levels of student performance in multiple areas:

- Content Knowledge and Skills
- Analysis and Synthesis
- Multiple Perspectives
- Research
- Communication
- Presentation of Learning/Professional Quality
- Innovation and Application
- Relevance and Significance
- Ethics/Unanswered Questions

Eligible Students

Schools should consider offering the TPSP to increase the rigor and relevance of their curricula for all students, including G/T students.

Getting Started

Working with experts in gifted education and experienced G/T teachers, the Texas Education Agency has developed and is providing an extensive array of materials to help Texas public school districts and charter schools implement the TPSP. These materials include the following:

- 2-6 interdisciplinary units, called tasks, for each grade level (kindergarten through grade 10)
- An independent research model for exit level (grades 11 and 12)
- Scoring guides for grades 4 and 8 and exit level
- Guides to Success—multimedia kits to help teachers understand and implement the project
- Awareness and scoring training provided by the G/T specialists at education service centers
- Examples of student products

Contact Information

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Visit the Texas Performance Standards Project website at: www.texaspsp.org.

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**TEXAS PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS PROJECT**

Texas
Education Agency

Project Overview

What is the Texas Performance Standards Project?

The TPSP is designed to help districts reach the state goal for gifted/talented students:

Students who participate in services designed for gifted students will demonstrate skills in **self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication** as evidenced by the development of **innovative products and performances** that reflect **individuality and creativity** and are **advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment**. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted students will have produced **products and performances of professional quality** as part of their program services.

– Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students

Additionally, the TPSP offers appropriate rigor and relevance through its scaffolded instruction in research skills and opportunities for students to explore in depth their own areas of interest.

District and Student Benefits

- The TPSP provides curriculum alignment and a true continuum of rigor and relevance.
- Services for gifted/talented students at TPSP schools are appropriately challenging and include options in the four core academic areas and in creativity.
- Students appreciate the opportunity to pursue their passions.
- Parents and communities demonstrate a high level of support for the program.



PURPOSE: The purpose of the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) is to capture the high levels of academic performance of gifted/talented students through independent research aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

- Students from schools which had participated in the TPSP for three years were significantly more likely to enroll in advanced courses in grade 10 than students from non-participating schools.

TPSP Curriculum

For kindergarten through grade 10, the TPSP offers two or more interdisciplinary units called tasks. Aligned with the TEKS, each task has guided instruction and opportunities for independent research in multiple content areas. At the high school exit level, the TPSP encourages a year-long independent study under the guidance of a mentor who is an expert in the student's area of study.

Course Credit

The TPSP can be incorporated into any existing class. At the exit level, course credit may be earned for independent studies conducted in State Board of Education (SBOE) approved courses, such as Independent Study in Mathematics or Scientific Research and Design.

Distinguished Achievement Program

By completing a TPSP project, high school students may earn credit for one of four advanced measures required for graduation under the Distinguished Achievement Program.