

## TEXAS EDUCATION REFORM

### Teacher requirements

1. No more composite (generalist) Education Degrees in Secondary (example would be the Social Studies degree as it doesn't offer specialization)
2. 24 hours in the Teaching Fields, with at least a B GPA in each teaching field. (The certification test is not always a good measure for expertise as the materials used to study are often the same as the test and promotes the teaching to the test mentality that has harmed Texas education.)
3. Continuing Education Units every 2 years in their respective Teaching fields, or the opportunity to gain another teaching field (15 classroom hours). But not to be used to for getting an Administrative Certification. If this is desired the person should do it extra and not take away from the classroom experience.
4. Principals as well as Superintendents if possible should teach one class every semester to keep in touch with the classroom.

There has been a 7 year decline in Civics Literacy, recommendation of the possible use of these materials:

1. iCivics
2. Constituting America
3. Hillsdale College

Change in the course presentation:

Present structure:

4th grade - Texas History

5th grade - US History

6th grade - World Cultures (survey course and not easy to cover in one year)

7th grade - Texas History

8th grade - US History first half up to 1876

9th grade and 10th grade - take either World History or World Geography

11th grade - US History second half from 1876 to the present

12th grade - one semester of Government and one semester of Economics

It should be immediately obvious the problem with the break between the first and second half of US History. This causes most teachers of the second half to use the first six weeks reviewing all of the first half and then spending the other 5 six weeks trying to cover over 140 years and thus it becomes more of a survey course teaching to the test.

Proposed changes:

4th through 7th the same, with possible modifications to the 6th grade to make it more teachable.

8th grade - US History first half

9th grade - US History second half

10th grade - World History, teaching World Geography aspects

11th grade - Constitution course one semester, Ethics course one semester

12th grade - Civics/Government course one semester, Economics course one semester with an emphasis on the Free Enterprise system

The push for Mathematics, Science and English all four years, but relegating History to only three years has helped to cause the decline in Civics education and knowledge