



# TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

## TEXAS TEKS HISTORY REFORM FAQs

We are at a pivotal crossroads in Texas education—one that will define how the next generation understands their heritage, values, and the exceptional story of America and Texas. The State Board of Education (SBOE) is preparing to vote on a major change to the Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Below are answers to key questions about this decision and why Texans must support the Comprehensive Model for teaching history.

### **Q: What is happening with the Texas Social Studies TEKS?**

A: The SBOE is evaluating two major structural models for teaching history in Texas public schools. Their vote, expected the week of September 9th, will determine how history is taught for years to come—impacting over 5.5 million students.

### **Q: What are the two models under consideration?**

A: The “Repetitive Model” spreads fragmented historical content across multiple grades (3rd–8th), lacking clear chronological instruction and eliminating the standalone capstone year of Texas History. The “Comprehensive Model” teaches history in a coherent, chronological sequence, preserving 8th grade Texas History and providing students with a deep understanding of key ideas, events, and principles.

### **Q: Why is the Comprehensive Model better?**

A: The Comprehensive Model teaches students the flow of history—how events are connected and how ideas like liberty and self-government evolved over time. It highlights the legacy of American exceptionalism and the greatness of Texas. It preserves the capstone year of Texas History and ensures students graduate with pride, perspective, and understanding of our shared story.

### **Q: What’s wrong with the Repetitive Model?**

A: The Repetitive Model eliminates chronological learning and Texas History as a standalone course. Students are exposed to repetitive, shallow content across grades, rather than a deep, engaging exploration of how historical ideas and events are connected. This model risks reducing history education to trivia and test prep.

### **Q: Why does this matter for Texas students and families?**

A: In 2025, only 30% of 8th grade students met grade-level expectations on the STAAR Social Studies exam. That’s unacceptable. A rigorous, content-rich curriculum like the Comprehensive Model equips students with the tools to think critically, love their country, and understand how Texas and America came to be.

### **Q: What makes Texas History so important?**

A: Texas history is a uniquely bold chapter in the American story. From the Alamo to San Jacinto, Texas has stood for liberty, courage, and independence. Students deserve to learn this story in full—not as a footnote, but as a foundational part of their education and identity as Texans.



**Q: Isn't this just a political debate?**

A: No. This is about ensuring our children know the truth of who we are and what has made America and Texas great. The Comprehensive Model provides all students—including those new to Texas—with a sense of belonging, purpose, and pride in the history of our state and nation.

**Q: What can I do to support the Comprehensive Model?**

A: Contact your SBOE member and urge them to support the Comprehensive Model. Share your story with decision-makers. Tell other parents and educators. Together, we can secure a legacy of truth and pride for the next generation.

Texas history is American history—and both must be taught boldly, thoroughly, and with pride. Let's give our children the knowledge and courage to carry our legacy forward.