



Texas Student Learning Objectives (SLO) Refinement Year

TEA is seeking districts for volunteer participation in the SLO refinement year

In 2016-2017 the Texas Education Agency (TEA), in partnership with the Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC), will implement a refinement year for the use of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) in teacher appraisal systems. Refinement year participants will help guide and shape this instructionally focused student growth option.

TEA is piloting SLOs with approximately 10 districts during the 2015-2016 school year. Based on feedback from those districts, TEA and CTAC will implement a revised SLO process during the 2016-2017 school year in preparation for the statewide requirement to include a measure of student growth in teacher appraisals starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

What are SLOs?

SLOs are long-term goals for student learning crafted by teachers and administrators. Often in teams with peer, school, and district support, teachers analyze data to determine student needs and devise instructional strategies to meet those needs and improve learning.

The SLO process strives to bring together the varied pedagogical considerations a teacher juggles throughout the year – curriculum, instruction, assessment, adjustment, and evaluation. The SLO process encourages and prompts continual reflection and self-assessment so that teachers can focus on aligning curriculum, instruction, and student performance.

TEA has developed a framework for SLO implementation, including recommended policies and procedures, and will engage participating districts in conversations to improve the framework throughout the refinement year.

Participation

Participation can be an entire campus or as small as a single grade or subject on a single campus, although it is recommended, for the sake of efficiency, that districts participate with no less than 10 teachers. The SLO process is designed to align well with formative appraisal processes focused primarily on professional growth and support.

Benefits

Districts participating in the pilot year will benefit from opportunities to:

