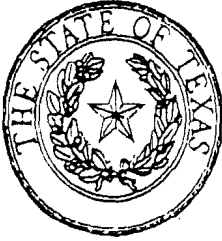


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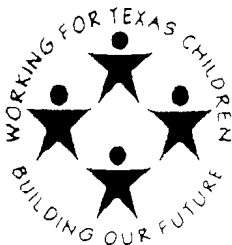
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August 13, 2003

Ms. Lisa Troutt
Texas Advisory Board
National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools
10595 Strait Lane
Dallas, Texas 75229

Dear Ms. Troutt:

Thank you for your letter dated July 2, 2003, regarding Bible course curriculum.

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) were approved by the State Board of Education in 1997 and implemented in the schools in Texas in fall 1998. Two courses in the TEKS are available under which districts may choose to offer curriculum such as your Bible course curriculum. It would be a local district decision, of course, but innovative course approval would not be necessary if districts choose to offer curriculum such as yours in the following two established courses.

- Special Topics in Social Studies, TAC §113.38, Social Studies. In this course, students are provided the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills of the social sciences to a variety of topics and issues, including the use of critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. Upon successful completion of the course, students are awarded one-half unit of credit. There are currently four PEIMS numbers for this course, so students may take this course with different content for a maximum of two credits.
- Literary Genres, TAC §110.51, English Language Arts. In this course, students spend time analyzing the fictional and poetic elements of literary texts and read to appreciate the writer's craft. High school students discover how well-written literary text can serve as models for their own writing. High school students respond to texts through such varied avenues as talk, print, and electronic formats to connect their knowledge of the world with the text being read. Students may be awarded one-half or one credit for the course.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you work with school districts that choose to use your curriculum in their schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldine Tincy Miller".

Geraldine "Tincy" Miller, Chair
State Board of Education