

November 20, 2012

The TESCCC has become aware of some individuals and groups distributing inaccurate information and misrepresenting CSCOPE content to school and community members of districts using the CSCOPE curriculum system. For example, during the public testimony portion of a meeting of the State Board of Education (SBOE) on November 15, 2012, where the TESCCC was invited to present information about CSCOPE, individuals affiliated with these groups made some distorted and misleading claims regarding the curriculum.

It is always best to recognize the source and reliability of any CSCOPE information being distributed or referenced. Individuals who are not authorized users of the CSCOPE system and do not fully understand the design and intent of the state standards (TEKS) and CSCOPE content are likely to not have all the facts before them.

An updated CSCOPE Frequently Asked Questions is available at <http://www.cscope.us/faq.html> to assist with most general questions; however, additional clarification regarding these recent messages and online postings is provided below:

1. The CSCOPE World History content on Islam and the Boston Tea Party presented at the November 15 SBOE meeting (and referenced in recent messages by CSCOPE detractors) is associated with the previous (and now outdated) SBOE adopted Social Studies standards. None of the World History content referenced in this messaging exists in the current CSCOPE system.
2. New Social Studies TEKS were implemented by the state in the fall of 2011, and CSCOPE is providing new Social Studies lessons for the 2012-13 school year.
3. The referenced CSCOPE World History content is taken out of context, creating an inaccurate portrayal of lesson design and intent. Drawing conclusions based on isolated portions of CSCOPE content is not recommended.
4. CSCOPE lessons do involve critical thinking and an understanding of perspective, but they do not promote any special interest.
5. CSCOPE is a continuously improving/evolving system. Each year, content is updated and enhanced for districts and is always aligned to current state adopted TEKS.
6. CSCOPE District User License Agreements and individual Terms of Use agreements DO NOT forbid or prevent districts or teachers from allowing parents to view CSCOPE content that is being used in the classroom. The process for parents being able to view CSCOPE is based on district policy.

CSCOPE is built on the belief that feedback is an essential part of our collaborative's responsibility and growth. Whether from authorized users or the general public, all feedback is acknowledged and respected. We also believe in the importance of meaningful dialogue when any questions or concerns may arise regarding the CSCOPE system or its content.

Therefore, we encourage district leaders, board members, parents, and community members to ask questions and to evaluate the validity and reliability of any information they may receive about CSCOPE. Your local school district or supporting education service center CSCOPE contact is the best source for information and to answer questions. The TESCCC is privileged to be associated with your district and to assist teachers in improving the learning process for their students.

Respectfully,



Wade N. Labay, Ed.D.
Director, State CSCOPE