



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: 8th Grade Social Studies Pilot-Exploros

SUBMITTED BY: David R. Canales, Executive Director of Middle School Instruction

OF: Curriculum & Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: October 18, 2016

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

UISD middle schools have been given an opportunity to participate in a pilot for 8th grade U.S. history by the company Exploros. There is no cost for the district to participate to use the Open Educational Resources curriculum since it is free. Exploros is a 1:1 device classroom platform that supports the social learning environment of the traditional classroom. Students engage in productive social networking, exploring and interacting in a classroom environment under teacher guidance. Exploros provides teachers with real-time data on student engagement and mastery. All middle school principals have agreed to have 1-2 minimum 8th grade social studies teachers to participate in the pilot which will run from October 2016-January 2017. As part of the pilot teachers will receive a face-to-face training, follow-up webinar assistance once a week, and required to implement two learning experiences from the TEKS aligned digital curriculum per week during the duration of the pilot. Pilot will be structured at the district level by pre-selecting lessons that will be implemented to continue the fluidity of the district's scope and sequence.

Exploros

8th Grade Social Studies Pilot

What is Exploros?

- **No cost to the district**
- **Free OER (Open Educational Resources) curriculum resource**
- Exploros is a 1:1 device classroom platform that supports the social learning environment of the traditional classroom.
- Students engage in productive social networking, exploring and interacting in a classroom environment under teacher guidance using TEKS-aligned learning experiences.
- Learning experiences in the digital curriculum are developed using the 5E model and have multiple opportunities for students to be engaged.
- Exploros provides teachers with real-time data on student engagement and mastery.

Pilot Information

- Pilot duration will be from mid-October 2016-January 2017
- Middle schools participating (AGMS, SGMS, LBVMS, LOMS, CMS, UMS, TMS, WMS, USMS)
- 1-2 8th Grade Social Studies teachers minimum per campus will participate
- Weekly webinars available to provide ongoing support for teachers participating in pilot
- Teachers must attend a 90 minute initial professional learning session
- 2 digital learning experiences required to be taught per week during duration of pilot
- Schools must share non-identifiable student data as well as video and testimonials for the project report

After Pilot

- Teachers can continue to use the free Exploros curriculum once the pilot is over.
- After analyzing student data and obtaining teacher feedback we would look into adding the Exploros curriculum resources into the 8th grade Social Studies Scope & Sequence for the 2017-2018 school year.
- **Optional:** If the district would like to analyze student data and curriculum usage on Exploros after the pilot then that would be a subscription that would need to be paid.