



P.O. Box 232
MT. PLEASANT, TX 75456

THOMAS RATLIFF
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
VICE-CHAIRMAN

TEL: (903) 717-1190
WWW.THOMASRATLIFF.COM

FAQs about CSCOPE

Q: How many school districts use CSCOPE?

A: 70% of school districts use CSCOPE, but they only cover 34% of students.

Q: What is the average size of a CSCOPE district?

A: The average enrollment of CSCOPE districts is 2,000 students.

Q: Do larger school districts use CSCOPE?

A: Some notable districts that do not use CSCOPE are Houston, Dallas, Austin, Ft. Worth, Cy Fair, Humble, Katy, Conroe, El Paso, and San Antonio.

Q: How many students attend non-CSCOPE schools?

A: In just the top 30 districts that don't use CSCOPE, there are approx. 1.67 million students, which is very close to the 1.7 million students in CSCOPE districts.

Moreover, Houston ISD has more students than 14 ESC regions have in total enrollment within their region.

Q: Do charter schools use CSCOPE?

A: Yes. Approx. 50% of charter schools covering 32% of charter students use CSCOPE. Some notable districts include KIPP Academy, UT Charter School, Bannockburn Christian Academy and the Texas School for the Deaf.

Q: Do private schools use CSCOPE?

A: Yes. 5 private schools use CSCOPE, which covers approx. 3% of total private school enrollment. Some notable districts are the Catholic Diocese of Austin, Wichita Christian, Hyde Park Baptist, and Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Q: Why do districts use CSCOPE?

A: That answer is unique to every district, but from my perspective districts use CSCOPE for a few key reasons that have their origin in Austin, Texas.

- 1) TEKS passed by the SBOE are too long and convoluted and teachers, especially new teachers, need help getting from Day 1 to Test Day.
- 2) The high-stakes testing system has placed all of the emphasis at the local campus level on test scores. CSCOPE offers school boards, superintendents and campus leadership a product that covers the TEKS and attempts to minimize surprises on test scores.
- 3) Many small districts cannot afford to hire their own curriculum director, therefore districts and ESCs got together and created CSCOPE. This results in a significant cost savings to most districts individually and statewide.

Q: Why did ESCs create CSCOPE and why do they charge for it?

A: The reasons for its creation are listed above, but ESCs were also given a directive from the Texas Legislature to find alternative sources of revenue that were outside of the General Appropriations Act. CSCOPE is just one of many of these alternative sources. Other examples are purchasing co-ops that give small districts better pricing through economies of scale with other small districts, business office services consolidation (accounting, etc.), TETN network (distance learning), Internet service provider (emergency data backup), Alternative certification programs, TVSN-Texas Virtual School Network, and numerous other functions related to compliance with state and federal mandates.

Q: Can parents see what is in CSCOPE?

A: Yes. If you look at Chapter 26.006 in the Texas Education Code, you will see that parents have wide amounts of authority to see what is happening in their child's classroom. CSCOPE should be treated no differently than anything else. A subscriber agreement cannot circumvent Texas law.

Q: What should the SBOE and the Texas Legislature do with CSCOPE?

A: Nothing more than has already been done. Bringing to light some of the structural/legal issues were certainly appropriate and insightful. For the Legislature and/or the SBOE to move to regulate a curriculum that only impacts small and medium-sized districts while ignoring the curriculum of the largest districts is not a proper policy direction. Transparency is the key to this issue, not regulation.

Sec. 26.006. ACCESS TO TEACHING MATERIALS. (a) A parent is entitled to:

(1) review all teaching materials, instructional materials, and other teaching aids used in the classroom of the parent's child; and

(2) review each test administered to the parent's child after the test is administered.

(b) A school district shall make teaching materials and tests readily available for review by parents. The district may specify reasonable hours for review.

(c) A student's parent is entitled to request that the school district or open-enrollment charter school the student attends allow the student to take home any instructional materials used by the student. Subject to the availability of the instructional materials, the district or school shall honor the request. A student who takes home instructional materials must return the instructional materials to school at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the student's teacher. In this subsection, "instructional material" has the meaning assigned by Section 31.002.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 805, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., Ch. [6](#), Sec. 12, eff. July 19, 2011.