

EPIC MISSION:

The Texas State University System (TSUS) Education Policy Implementation Center (EPIC) is committed to enhancing the educational experience of Texas students through the implementation of state and federal educational initiatives and improved educator development programs.

EPIC is a research and development partnership of the five TSUS universities, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and a variety of other educational and funding entities committed to educational improvement. Additionally, EPIC provides consultative services to TEA related to various curriculum initiatives.

EPIC grant initiatives are administered through Texas State University and EPIC headquarters are located at the university's Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC). Some of the major EPIC initiatives currently in operation are highlighted inside.

EPIC Member Institutions

Angelo State University Lamar University
Sam Houston State University Sul Ross State University
Texas State University-San Marcos

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MELL Initiative

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EPIC Education Policy Implementation Center



Texas State University-San Marcos is a Member of the Texas State University System, and is an equal educational opportunity institution.

MELL Initiative

The TSUS Math for English Language Learners (MELL) initiative is a multiyear effort funded by the Texas Education Agency to develop instructional resources designed to increase the effectiveness of math instruction for ELL students in PK-12 schools.

MELL initiative activities are focused in five areas:

- * Identifying and developing instructional tools
- * Creating professional development
- * Conducting applied classroom-based research
- * Extending best practices to university-based training programs
- * Guiding policymakers

Resources developed by the project will be made widely available to all schools and universities in Texas. For additional information on the TSUS MELL initiative, visit the MELL website @ www.tsusmell.org.

NCLB Initiative

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is the most sweeping education legislation since 1965. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) carries the mammoth responsibility of helping more than 1100 school districts with approximately 4 million students meet the goals set by NCLB. Through a groundbreaking grant, Texas State University System (TSUS) is working with TEA to assist districts and regional educational service centers (ESCs) with the implementation of the NCLB statute and its attendant regulations. NCLB Area Coordinators at each of the five TSUS universities across the state work with designated districts within specified ESCs, so that all have access to the assistance they require. The Area Coordinators, located at Sam Houston State University, Sul Ross State University, Lamar University, Angelo State University, and Texas State University also support the Division of NCLB Program Coordination at TEA through formal presentations, performance reports, guidance documents, and program review.

Teacher Induction and Retention Initiatives

The retention of newly certified teachers is a high state and national educational priority and is a critical concern of university teacher preparation programs. To address this critical need, EPIC sponsors an integrated research program focused on new teachers and induction support programs. Current grant programs in this area include the following:

Novice Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) and Follow-Up Study

Funded by the Houston Endowment, the TSUS Novice Teacher Induction Program involved six TSUS institutions and provided intensive induction support to approximately 1,000 newly certified Texas teachers who entered teaching between 2002 and 2004. Extensive research and evaluation data were collected from participants, mentors, administrators, and program coordinators and these data have yielded valuable findings related to induction support strategies and the complexities faced by first-year teachers. In 2005, a five-year follow-up study of NTIP participants was launched to track the retention of program participants in the teaching profession and to document their professional activities and leadership roles following their completion of NTIP.



CREATE Induction Study

The Center for Research, Evaluation & Advancement of Teacher Education (CREATE), a consortium of the Texas A&M University System, the Texas State University System, and the University of Texas System, is funding a research initiative related to novice teacher induction. The study's mixed methods approach will use teacher interviews along with Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to longitudinally track both novice teacher retention and effects on student achievement.

USDE Grants for Supporting Newly Certified Teachers

EPIC is currently operating two U.S. Department of Education grants awarded to TSUS in 2003 and 2004 to support newly certified teachers and to disseminate promising induction support strategies to other educational entities. Over the years, these grants have supported a number of multi-institutional collaborative endeavors for university and public school educators and have sustained and elevated the professional dialogue focused on quality teacher induction support.

Proposal/Product Review Services

EPIC consists of a broad network of university and public school educators dispersed throughout Texas and, as such, is well-positioned to facilitate and coordinate the timely review of educational grant proposals and/or professional development products. EPIC Proposal/Product Review Services are available on an as-needed contract basis to state, public, private, and professional entities.
