



## 2025–2026 Innovative Course Application Instructions - New

- The Texas school district/charter school or other organization seeking approval for a new innovative course must complete the innovative course application for new courses.
- The new innovative course application must be completed prior to submission. Applications deemed incomplete or received after the due date will not be considered.
- The TEA will review the applications in the order received.
- **Applications that duplicate the content of a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-based course or can reasonably be taught within an existing TEKS-based course will not be approved. Please refer to guidance within the application regarding specific requirements for career and technical (CTE).**
- A single application is required for each course. A course with multiple levels of the same course must have a separate application for each level. For example, an applicant may apply for approval of Latin Literature I, II, and III but will be required to submit three complete applications with essential knowledge and skills that are ***separate and unique for each level of the course***.
- Please remember to follow these essential requirements.
  - a. The application must provide sufficient guidance for teachers to implement the course without additional information.
  - b. The essential knowledge and skills (EKS) for the proposed innovative course(s) must be presented as student expectations and should be written in the same format as the TEKS. Examples of the format, general requirement, and introduction are available in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), [Chapters 110–128 and 130](#).
  - c. The essential knowledge and skills ***must be***:
    - rigorous and appropriate for the subject matter and grade level of the course;
    - measurable and observable; and
    - clear, direct, and specific.
  - d. Please note that formatting similar to that in the TEKS are built into the document. An applicant may wish to use the document styles to save time.
- Submit the application:
  - Name the file and save the application: Course Title-District or Organization name-2025-26.
  - Use “New-Course title-District or Organization name-2025-26” as the subject line of the email.

For example, New-Creating Innovative Courses-TEA Academy-2025-26
  - Submit the application as a .DOCX attachment to [innovative.courses@tea.texas.gov](mailto:innovative.courses@tea.texas.gov).
  - Expect an email receipt confirmation within five working days.



- Submit all included recommended resources with the application to make them available for State Board of Education (SBOE) review. Guest access to any online course and learning management system content must be provided. If any resources are required for the course, please include the cost.
- **Access to electronic materials**  
Directions for electronic access of recommended resources, including credentials, must be emailed with the application submission by **Friday, September 13, 2024.**
- **Digital materials (Soft copy)**  
Please send digital copies of recommended resources Innovative.Courses@tea.texas.gov by **Friday, September 13, 2024.**
- **Print materials (Hard copy)**  
For materials that exist in hard copy, please use the following address for submission. Please ensure any shipments can be received by TEA no later than **Friday, September 13, 2024.** Please also alert TEA if you have shipped any materials and the shipping method used so that the mailroom can be properly notified.  
Texas Education Agency  
c/o Weston Scholten, 3-121J-WBT  
William B. Travis Building  
1701 N. Congress Avenue

Please visit the [Innovative Courses web page](#) for additional information.