

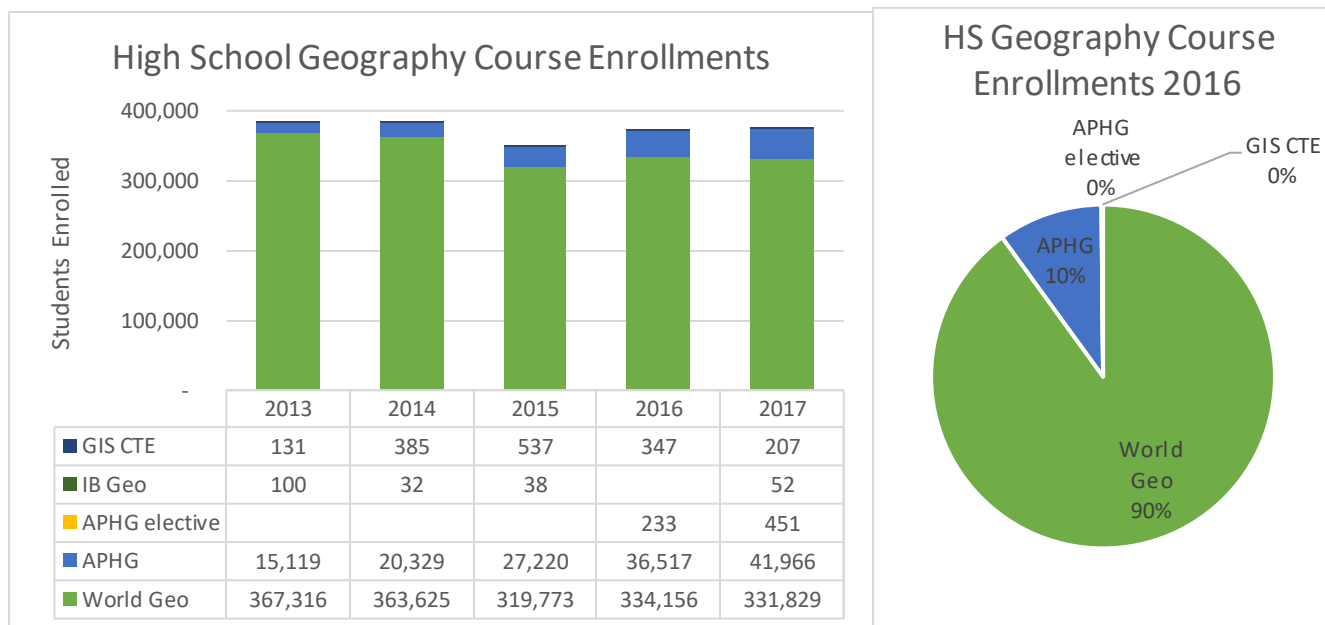
GEOGRAPHY IN THE TEXAS K-12 CURRICULUM

Several key factors affect the state of geography in Texas. Geography standards are specifically included as a strand in the social studies TEKS for grades K-12. The geography standards for all of these courses are outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The science standards also include a substantial amount of physical geography, especially fifth grade science, and three geospatial technology courses are approved as innovative Career Technology Education courses by the Texas Education Agency. In addition to the geography strand, Texas offers five high school geography courses: World Geography Studies (one credit), Pre -AP World Geography (one credit), AP Human Geography (Wrld Geog) (one credit), AP Human Geography (Elective) (half credit), and International Baccalaureate Geography. Since 2013, the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education has tracked enrollment in geography strand courses and high school geography courses in Texas.

ENROLLMENT AND TEACHER FTE FOR GEOGRAPHY STRAND COURSES

2016-2017	GRADE LEVEL	TEACHER FTE COUNT	COURSE ENROLLMENT
Social Studies	Grades K-5	14,213.50	2,051,595
Social Studies	Grades 6-8	9,241.15	1,171,299
World Geography Studies	Grades 9-12	2,501.40	331,829
World History	Grades 9-12	2,307.16	294,255
U.S. History Studies Since 1877	Grades 9-12	2398.28	284,220
United States Government	Grades 9-12	1,245.66	151,104
AP Human Geography	Grades 9-12	274.04	42,417
	TOTALS	32,181.19	4,326,719

http://tea.texas.gov/Reports_and_Data/Educator_Data/ (accessed 2017.04.05)



Data accessed 2017.04.05 <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adfte.html>. 2017 is preliminary. In 2017, GIS CTE courses are taught in Flour Bluff ISD, Houston ISD, Irving ISD, Kingsville ISD, London ISD, Santa Gertrudis ISD, and Spring ISD.



EDUCATIONAL POLICY CHANGES AND UPDATES

(as of April 5, 2017)

Since 2013, a series of state legislation and clarifications from the State Board of Education have affected Texas geography courses.

HOUSE BILL 5

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature passed House Bill 5, which made significant changes to the statewide graduation and testing requirements. High school students are no longer required to take World Geography to fulfill a graduation requirement. Students may take either World Geography or World History, or local school districts may choose to require both for high school graduation. This portion of House Bill 5 became effective with the 2013-14 school year.

AP/IB COURSES AND THE TEKS

In November 2014, the SBOE adopted revisions to the TEKS for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) social studies courses that meet social studies graduation requirements. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the following courses are now required to address the TEKS for the corresponding course: AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP U.S. Government, IB History: Americas, IB Geography and Standard Level, and IB Geography Higher Level.

ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2015, House Bill 2804, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, requires changes to the state public school academic accountability system. The changes, in effect beginning with the 2017–18 school year, with the first ratings to be issued August 2018, include creating five domains of indicators that will be used to evaluate districts and campuses regarding three main goals. Preparing students for postsecondary success is one of the goals and AP/IB courses figure into the formula to determining this score. The AP criterion score will be set and adopted by commissioner rule in spring 2018 effective for the 2018 accountability ratings. The criteria and indicators in the accountability system are revised and adopted annually. Two accountability advisory committees meet and develop recommendations which are provided to the commissioner. Final accountability decisions are made and adopted by the commissioner in early spring.

Domain	Indicator	2015–16 (used for January 1, 2017, report)	2017–18
IV	Postsecondary Readiness (high schools and K–12)	<p>2014–15 annual graduates who do at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete CTE-Coherent Sequence of courses • Complete one or more AP/IB courses • Complete 12 hours or more of earned postsecondary credit • Achieve TSI benchmark on the TSIA, SAT, or ACT <p>A-F Indicators Matrix</p>	<p>2016–17 annual graduates who do at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete CTE-Coherent Sequence of courses/earn industry (nationally recognized) certification • Perform at or above criterion score on one or more AP/IB examinations • Complete 12 hours or more of earned postsecondary credit • Achieve TSI benchmark on the TSIA, SAT, or ACT • Enlist in the U.S. armed forces



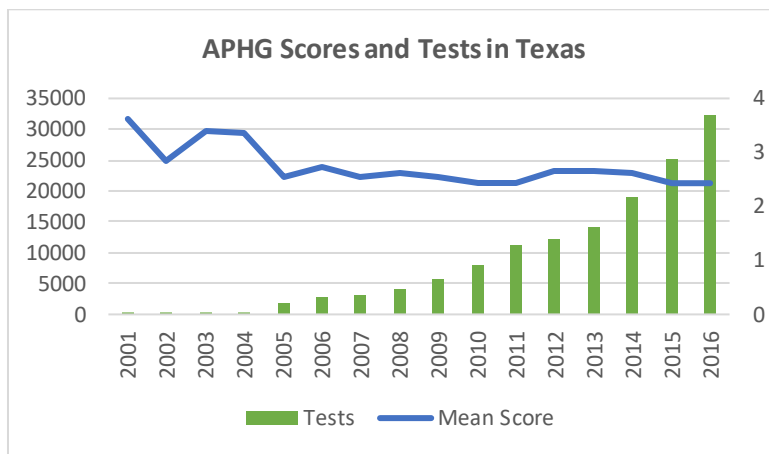
OVERVIEW OF AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY IN TEXAS

(as of April 5, 2017)

Despite the College Board’s statement that most 9th grade students are [not prepared for college-level coursework](#), AP Human Geography continues to be offered and tested in 9th grade. Sixty-five percent of advanced placement exams taken by 9th graders in the nation were taken in human geography. ([AP Program Summary Report 2016](#))

In Texas there are two options for AP Human Geography: a half credit elective option which may be taken in addition to World Geography Studies and a one credit substitute for the World Geography Studies course that must include all of the World Geography TEKS. In 2016, 90% of students enrolled in a high school geography course took the World Geography Studies course with the remaining 10% taking APHG. Texas’ participation in the AP Human Geography continues to grow significantly each year, from 29 exams taken in 2001 to 32,468 exams in 2016.

For 2014–15 annual graduates, “completion of one or more AP/IB courses” is now part of the indicators of Domain IV to measure campus and district performance, with the A-F rating system. For 2016-17 annual graduates, the criteria changes to “perform at or above criterion score on one or more AP/IB examinations.” ([TEA HB2804 Implementation](#))



Texas Summary 2016 – Human Geography. AP Score Distributions by Total and Ethnic Group.											
AP SCORE	Amer India/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic / Latino	Native Hawaiian / Other Pac Isl	White	Two or More Races	Other	No Respon se	Texas Total	National Total
5	5	1,164	62	429	3	1,472	142	1	36	3,314	22,054
4	12	1,248	195	1,063	5	2,472	240	3	37	5,275	37,103
3	15	989	324	1,559	4	2,475	224		67	5,657	36,531
2	19	669	406	2,247	7	2,246	228		58	5,880	35,360
1	41	699	1,291	7,300	10	2,496	286	5	214	12,342	53,615
Total	92	4,769	2,278	12,598	29	11,161	1,120	9	412	32,468	184,663
MEAN SCORE	2.14	3.32	1.83	1.82	2.45	2.84	2.75	2.44	2.08	2.43	2.67
% score 3 or above	35%	71%	26%	24%	41%	58%	54%	44%	34%	44%	52%

Accessed 2017.04.05 from <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/misc/ap/texas-summary-2016.xlsx>

Questions?

Feel free to contact us at tage.geography@txstate.edu or 512.245.3827.

