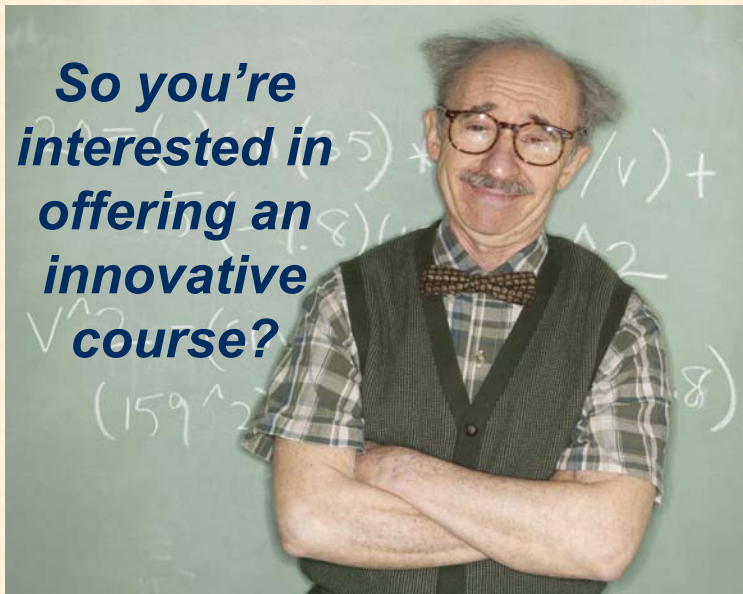


**So you're  
interested in  
offering an  
innovative  
course?**



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## Step One: Understand the Options

There are four types of innovative courses:

1. Those developed by districts and approved by TEA
2. Those developed by organizations other than districts and approved by the State Board of Education
3. Those yet to be developed and yet to be approved – great ideas waiting to be turned into valuable courses
4. Those approved under a previous system which have either already expired or which will be expiring soon

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Step Two:  
Determine which  
type of innovative  
course your district  
is interested in.

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## Type 1: Current TEA-Approved Innovative Courses

Current TEA-Approved Innovative Courses are listed at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6079>.

To offer one of these courses:

1. Contact the subject area director listed on the chart.
2. Ask for the course requirements and essential knowledge and skills (EKS).
3. Add the course to your course catalogue and use the PEIMS code and abbreviation provided.

### Useful Information

- *These courses do not have expiration dates but may be discontinued with one year's notice upon revision of the subject area TEKS.*
- *Your district may add to the EKS or go beyond the requirements, but just as with any state-approved course, you must at least teach the EKS and meet the approved requirements.*

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## Type 2: Current SBOE-Approved Courses

Current SBOE-Approved Innovative Courses are listed at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6079>.

To offer one of these courses:

1. Contact the organization listed on the chart.
2. Work with the owner of the course (the outside organization) to ensure that your district meets all established requirements.
3. Add the course to your course catalogue and use the PEIMS code and abbreviation provided.

### Useful Information:

- *These courses have expiration dates. It is the responsibility of the owner organization to apply for renewal prior to the expiration date.*
- *Your district may add to the approved essential knowledge and skills (EKS) or go beyond the requirements, but just as with any state-approved course, you must at least teach the EKS and meet the approved requirements.*

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## Type 3: New Innovative Courses for Local Credit

- Districts may design and offer innovative courses for local credit. No state approval or notification is necessary.
- Use a locally-assigned PEIMS code and abbreviation. The PEIMS code must begin with the number 8 (i.e., 8XXXXXXX).
- Use the Special Explanation Code “L” on the students’ transcripts.

*Please see the [2009-2010 Academic Achievement Record Minimum Standards](#) for more details on the use of locally-designed innovative courses.*

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## Type 3: New Innovative Courses for State Credit

- Districts may design and offer innovative courses for state credit.
- Districts may design new innovative courses and apply for state approval to offer them as state elective credit options.
- Use the checklist on the next slide to help determine if this is a good option for your district.

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## Innovative Course Checklist

You should consider applying to TEA for state approval of your innovative course if ALL of the following are true:

- ✓ The course meets a defined need for an identified population of students in your district.
- ✓ The course has unique Essential Knowledge and Skills (EKS) that are not currently found in any TEKS-based course.
- ✓ The course has been approved by your local board of trustees.

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## Innovative Course Application

1. Once you've determined that all the descriptors apply to your innovative course, request the innovative course application by sending an e-mail to [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us) and specifying "Innovative Course Application" in the subject line.
2. When it is complete, submit it as a Word document attachment on an email addressed to [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us).
3. You will receive an email within 5 working days acknowledging your submission. If you do not receive this email, contact [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us).
4. Your course will be reviewed and evaluated based on the criteria shown on the next slide. You may be contacted via phone or email by the reviewer to whom your application is assigned with questions or suggestions for improvement.

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## Innovative Course Approval Criteria

### Purpose

1. EKS not covered in TEKS of any existing course
2. Local board approval

### Course Evaluation

1. Course Credit
  - a. Appropriate for content
  - b. Flexibility in range
2. Course Description
  - a. Clear, well-defined
  - b. Accurately reflects objectives
3. Essential Knowledge and Skills
  - a. Clear, well-defined
  - b. Knowledge and skill-based
  - c. Grade level appropriate
  - d. Rigorous in difficulty and complexity
4. Need for the innovative course
  - a. Academic knowledge and skill development

b. Technical knowledge and skill development

c. Enrichment

### 5. Resources and Materials

- a. Age and grade appropriate
- b. High quality

### 6. Activities

- a. Age and grade appropriate
- b. Rigorous, inquiry and project-based

### 7. Assessment

- a. Age and grade appropriate
- b. Authentic

### 8. Teacher Qualifications

- a. Certification(s) appropriate
- b. Highly qualified

### Presentation

1. Format appropriate for web posting
2. Error free

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## Type 4: Expired Innovative Courses

Follow the directions for new innovative course applications.

See slides 7 – 11 for more information.

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## Final Notification

You will receive final notification of the application's approval/denial via email from the Division of Curriculum.

Complete application processing may take up to three months, depending on the nature of the course and the number of applications submitted in any given subject area.

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## Innovative Course Helpful Hints

- The EKS of an innovative course should never be the same as the TEKS of an SBOE-approved course. TEKS should never be copied and pasted into an innovative course application.
- EKS should be written as student expectation statements similar to the TEKS and must establish appropriate rigor for the course. (An example from a TEA-approved innovative course can be seen on the next slide.)

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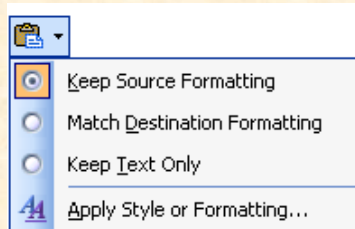


## EKS Example

**(2) Creative expression/performance.** The student interprets characters, using the voice and body expressively, and creates dramatizations. The student is expected to: (A) practice appropriate safety measures; (B) analyze characters from various genres and styles, describing physical, intellectual, emotional, and social dimensions; (C) portray believable characters in improvised and scripted scenes of various styles; and (D) improvise and write dialogue that reveals character motivation, advances plot, provides exposition, and reveals theme.

## Innovative Course Helpful Hints

Sometimes formatting errors occur when copying and pasting into the innovative course application. These can be corrected immediately after pasting by right-clicking on the clipboard icon that appears as you paste.



## Innovative Course Helpful Hints

If you are unable to secure local school board approval prior to the innovative course application deadline, you may submit your application without that approval. However, your approval will be pending until you submit documentation of local school board approval.

Date of local board of trustees' approval of this innovative course application: Pending

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## Innovative Course Helpful Hints

Prior to submitting an application in any of the four foundation subjects, please check the TEKS for the independent study/special topics course in that subject area. If your course can be taught using one of the TEKS-based courses, your application will be denied.

[§110.82. Independent Study in English, Journalism, and/or Speech](#)

[§111.52. Independent Study in Mathematics](#)

[§112.71\(a\)\(1\) Scientific Research and Design](#)

[§113.38. Special Topics in Social Studies](#)

[§113.39. Social Studies Research Methods](#)

[§113.52. Social Studies Advanced Studies](#)

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## Useful Links

- Innovative Course Website:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6079>
- PEIMS Data Standards:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/peims/standards/0809/index.html>

Scroll down until you see the following section



and click on the most convenient sorting option.

## Useful Links

- Division of Curriculum homepage:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/index.html>
- Academic Achievement Records Minimum Standards:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/aarmenu.html>
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>  
(Scroll down to Chapters 110 – 128.)

## For Assistance

- Concerning currently-approved CTE innovative courses, email [career@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:career@tea.state.tx.us)
- Concerning non-CTE approved courses, new applications, or other questions, email [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us)

*You can also contact us at 512-463-9581.*