



## Bible Literacy Frequently Asked Questions

November 2011

### 1. Does the school district have to offer a Bible literacy course?

No. The [Attorney General's Opinion No. GA-0657](#) determined that the course authorized in Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.011 is not required to be offered. However, the Opinion also determined that because "religious literature" had been added to the required enrichment curriculum, some instruction in that subject is required. Districts may incorporate instruction regarding religious literature as required by [Texas Education Code \(TEC\) §28.002\(a\)\(2\)\(H\)](#) into existing history or literature courses or may offer a specific course on that subject.

### 2. Does the school district have to offer the course if 15 or more students request it?

No. The [Attorney General's Opinion No. GA-0657](#) determined that a district or charter does not have to offer the course authorized in [TEC §28.011](#) in response to a request by 15 students. However, some instruction in religious literature is required, as explained in the answer above.

### 3. What certifications must a teacher have to teach the course?

[TEC § 28.011\(f\)](#) states the following:

A teacher of a course offered under this section must hold a minimum of a High School Composite Certification in language arts, social studies, or history with, where practical, a minor in religion or biblical studies. A teacher selected to teach a course under this section shall successfully complete staff development training outlined in [Section 21.459](#). A course under this section may only be taught by a teacher who has successfully completed training under [Section 21.459](#).

Training for teachers who teach the Bible literacy course will be available soon through Project Share.

### 4. Where can the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the Bible literacy course be found?

The TEKS for the Bible literacy course may be found in [19 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §74.36](#). A course offered under this section shall follow the TEKS for Special Topics in Social Studies or the TEKS for Independent Study in English.

### 5. Are materials provided for the teachers of this course?

At this time, there are no state-adopted instructional materials available for this course.

### 6. What materials/resources should a district plan to use for the Bible literacy course?

Decisions regarding materials and resources for any course generally fall under local district control. However, [TEC §28.011\(c\)](#) prohibits requiring use of a specific translation of the Bible.

### 7. What PEIMS number should a district use when reporting the class?

Districts should use the appropriate choice from the codes below:

03221830	Independent Study in English: Hebrew Scriptures (1/2-1 Unit) (HEBSCEN)
03221840	Independent Study in English: New Testament (1/2-1 Unit) (NEWTENG)
03221850	Independent Study in English: Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament (1/2-1 Unit) (HSNTENG)
03380052	Special Topics in Social Studies: Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) (1/2 unit) (HEBSCSS)
03380062	Special Topics in Social Studies: New Testament (1/2 unit) (NEWTSS)
03380072	Special Topics in Social Studies: Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament (1/2 unit) (HSNTSS)

Links Used in this Document:

<https://www.oag.state.tx.us/opinions/opinions/50abbott/op/2008/htm/ga-0657.htm>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.28.htm#28.002>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.28.htm#28.011>

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.459>

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074c.html#74.36>