

Texas Speech Communication Association  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** TSCA Members

**FROM:** Kandi King—TSCA President  
Lacye Odam—TSCA Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee  
Russell Kirkscey—TSCA Vice-President Elect

**DATE:** March 19, 2011

**RE:** Secondary Certification Issues for Teaching Professional Communication (CTE) and Communication Applications

The Texas Speech Communication Association (TSCA) recognizes that public schools must offer Communication Applications and may offer Professional Communications (within Career and Technology Education) to fulfill the Texas State Board of Education requirement for one-half credit at the secondary level. TSCA Executive Committee members and the Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Lacye Odam, have prepared the following points of information regarding certification requirements for TSCA members and others who may teach one or both of these courses.

**Informational Points**

- Professionals with Speech Communications teacher certification may teach the Career and Technology Education Professional Communications course. They do not need CTE certification.
- Professionals with a CTE teacher certificate may only teach Professional Communications IF they have at least 6 college hours in Speech Communication.
- The Professional Communications course is not designed for every student but was created for those students in CTE following a coherent sequence.
- Speech—one-half credit (which can be satisfied by either Communication Applications or Professional Communications) is a requirement for graduation based on Texas Administrative Code Chapter 74.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This rule is found at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074f.html>

- The Texas State Board of Education has been committed to maintaining the one-half credit for speech as a requirement for high school graduation.
- At this time, there seems to be nothing on future Texas State Board of Education agendas that would have an effect on Communication Applications.

### **TSCA Governmental Affairs Committee's Plan of Action**

- The Committee plans to file an open records request to find out how schools in Texas are implementing the Professional Communication course (if at all). This information will help us understand what areas, schools, and TSCA members are most affected by recent changes.
- The Committee recommends the TSCA Speech and Theatre in Public Schools Committee create a document comparing the Professional Communications and Communication Applications TEKS. This will help those professionals who have been asked to teach Professional Communications make the transition more smoothly.

### **Recommendations**

The Governmental Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee strongly urge TSCA members to talk to their colleagues, principals, and other administrators about the informational points provided above.

Please familiarize yourselves with the following documents:

- Texas Education Agency Teacher Certification Website  
[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=5830&menu\\_id=865&menu\\_id2=794](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=5830&menu_id=865&menu_id2=794)
- State Board for Educator Certification 19 TAC Chapter 231  
<http://info.sos.state.tx.us/fids/201004175-1.pdf>