

# K-12 Advisory Group Winter Teleconference Notes

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 3:00 PM Central

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## Welcome and Introduce Angela Steagall

### Region 20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update – Questions for the Group:

We have very low TexQuest participation rates in regions 14 (32.5%) and 17 (29.5%).

What strategies could we employ to get those numbers up? Ann is presenting at Region 17, and our ESC contact from Region 14 will be attending. We have seen a spike in signups/usage after presentations, so this is a good sign. Also suggested a snail-mailout to the superintendent of non-participating districts; it's funded by the legislature, take advantage. Reconnect with rural school association. IMCAT is also another possibility to stress TexQuest is instructional materials. Len will also check to see if a link can be added to TEA's instructional materials page on their website.

We have had no ideas for implementing/promoting TexQuest submitted to us, despite requesting them for several months – how can we get ideas from the field to help us “prime the pump”? Educator chats on Twitter, Easy, quick form for submitting ideas on website, and post the link on lists and tweets. We can also use ideas as exit tickets for trainings and workshops.

Suggested Len podcast or Google Hangout from presentation at TCEA – will investigate TCEA's policies, but Len loves the idea!

### Process for determining priorities for future program purchases – Questions for the Group:

We'd like to have a survey ready to start collecting librarian, teacher, and administrator feedback on priorities in time for TCEA – February 5 specifically. With this in mind:

Do we need to set up a Subcommittee/Task Force to look at this process? Len will proceed with creating a survey. Len will send survey items to the group via email for comments.

What curriculum areas, grade levels, or student groups are currently underserved by TexQuest resources? What types of content could we add to address those gaps? Elementaries love Nat Geo and InfoBits, and they want more. Britannica will help with this. CATE Gaps and STEM, also test prep is needed.

### Invoices – Questions for the Group:

We have decided to stop mentioning the first free year in our outreach and training and outreach events. What information is missing for districts? Emphasize savings/cost avoidance

Invoices go out on January 15, and will be due in 60 days. How can we best communicate the importance of continuing participation in the program by paying the fee and using the resources?

We will discontinue access for non-payment on June 15. What can we do to get those non-paying districts back into the program?

**Usage – Questions for the Group:**

What would you do to facilitate the integration of these resources across the state?

Teachers are not aware of what's available – barriers to access are still an issue. Could we look at single access options and authentication tools to make access easier?

Focus on Instructional materials; emphasize the curriculum connections, especially for districts (and there are many) who are developing their own curricula. Look at iTunes U to see what is out there. We can re-frame TQ as vital instructional material instead of an add-on that is perhaps not needed. Current, up-to-date, dynamic, and authoritative.

Work on TASA and Subject area groups. TCMPC - <http://www.teksresourcesystem.net/>