

CSCOPE EXPLANATION

CSCOPE, developed by the Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative (TESCCC) and sold by Texas Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs), is the curriculum management tool of choice for 875 school districts, charter schools, and private schools in Texas. It is aligned with the state standards (TEKS) adopted by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) and assists educators in covering all standards within the academic year.

CSCOPE was developed by Texas teachers for Texas schools to benefit Texas students. In no way is it based on, or affiliated with, the Common Core curriculum, a set of national standards used in other states. CSCOPE is only available to public school districts, charter schools, or private schools in Texas.

CSCOPE has no religious agenda and does not proselytize. Any mentions of specific religions and beliefs are included because the TEKS adopted by the SBOE, and required for instruction in all Texas schools, require the comparing and contrasting of the world's largest religions including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, etc. Some information has been presented on the Internet outside of this context which makes it seem that Texas teachers are teaching students only about Islam or disproportionately about Islam, which couldn't be farther from the truth.

Region x hired a respected local-area consultant, that we know to be quite conservative, to go through the entire social studies curriculum and to look for anything the least bit controversial from her point of view. She is a former social studies director from a Region x district with a doctorate in the field – now retired. After finding and documenting all of the references to religion word-for-word, the consultant made several generalizations:

1. CSCOPE does not add any information on Islam other than these explanatory phrases for what is required by the State Board of Education.
2. If you look as a whole, naturally Christianity appears more often (almost twice as much) due to our country's heritage from the Pilgrims, Puritans, Catholic missionaries, European immigration of the 1800s, etc. So, Christianity is covered and respected.
3. Islam will appear in geography-related courses because the TEKS require a comparison of religions and in world history due to requirements by the State to study the history of the Middle East and such episodes as Iran Hostage Crisis and 911.

Overall, the outside review found that there was no bias toward Islam in any regard and what was included in CSCOPE was critical to understanding circumstances in the world today.

If you would like more information about CSCOPE, please contact Sue Boone at 903-356-1232.