



Senate Bill 801:

Agriculture Education Legislation in Action

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QUESTION #1

The Issue

WHY WAS SB801 Needed?

A. Agricultural Literacy

Students need foundational knowledge of agriculture and understand its role in their daily lives.

(Knobloch, 2008; Sprayberry et al., 2026)

B. Early Career Interest

Students start to develop interests in careers and making career path decisions before secondary school.

(Wyss et al., 2012)

C. Teacher Resources

Elementary teachers want agricultural resources that are free and aligned with standards, but often lack the curriculum and training needed to confidently teach it.

(Clark et al., 2023; Gill et al., 2025; Helm et al., 2025; Plunkert et al., 2026)

So... What's the answer?

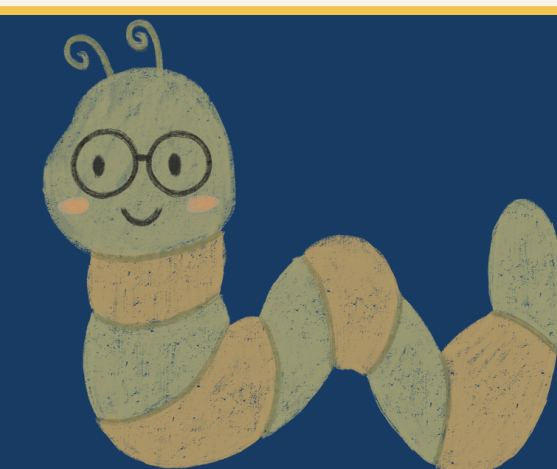


From Bill to Action

The Answer: Statewide Collaboration & Accessible Curriculum

Legislation SB 801

Proposed by a past Texas FFA State Officer in response to widespread agricultural illiteracy among youth and sponsored by a senator to help introduce and advocate.



Collaboration TEA + TDA + Non-Profits

Required the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture to work together to create standards for agricultural elementary education.

Program Development Elementary Ag Program

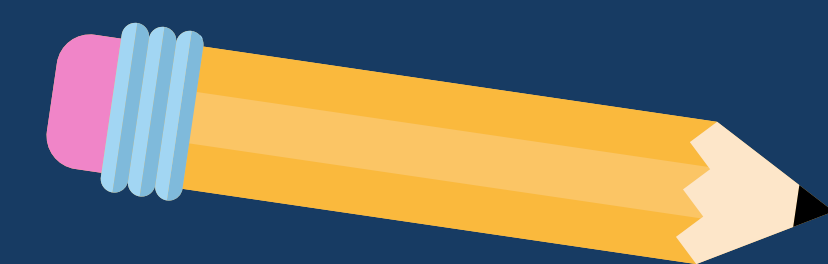
The legislation called for standards and approved resources to be provided for elementary schools to use at no cost to districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

Curriculum Framework 3 Core Themes

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Food, Fiber and Fuel
- Agriculture Past and Present

Texas' Approach

Texas' model highlights the collaboration across agencies, the access at zero-cost, and integrating the content into the core-subject classrooms instead of requiring a separate course or designated time.



1st Grade Plant Basics

2nd Grade Food Resources

3rd Grade Soil Science

4th Grade Ag Technology

QUESTION #2

What's Happened Since Then?

Texas Senate

SIGNED

June 14, 2021

EFFECTIVE

September 1, 2021

TEA

Created curriculum standards that can embed agriculture education into core subjects at the elementary level and aligned with TEKS and the three identified themes.

Resources

- Access to TEKS and TEA built curriculum
- High school agriculture teachers and programs
- Local extension agents
- Agriculture in the Classroom formally recognized as curriculum material that Texas elementary schools can legally adopt free of cost

Question #3

What's Next?

Literature Review

1

Complete a synthesis of literature on elementary agricultural education and agricultural literacy.

Comparative Study

2

Conduct a comparative study of states with established elementary agriculture programs.

Analysis & Development

3

Use the findings from the comparison study to build a professional development for elementary teachers or elementary agriculture specialists.

Evaluation & Review

4

Host the professional development, send out the pilot programs, evaluate the implementation and the pilot program, revise as needed.

1st Grade Animal Science

2nd Grade Life Cycles

3rd Grade Adaptations

4th Texas Production

FINAL QUESTION

What Does It Take?



Dedicating time to curriculum enrichment.



Costs associated with equipment or resources not readily available.



Potential costs of professional development or training.



Cost of hiring EAE specialists.