

# LESSON 29

## State Government

- *Texas' Chief Governmental Officials*
- *State Government*
- *Texas Legislature*
- *Texas State Judiciary*
- *Texas State Agencies*
- *Texas State Boards and Commissions*
- *State Government Income and Expenditures*

### **SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS**

4 - 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

7 - 7, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

8 - 17, 19, 21, 22, 29, 30

### **STAAR**

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 3

### **INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

1. Students will read the "Texas' Chief Government Officials" section to complete the **Texas Chief Government Officials** assignment.
  - a. Write the year in which each of these events occurred in the appropriate column.
  - b. Write "1" in the appropriate column for the first event that occurred and continue until all events are sequenced.
2. Using the "State Government," "State Senate," and "House of Representatives" sections as reference for the officials, students will write a persuasive letter to a member of the state executive or legislative branch on one of these topics:

*The State Capitol at Austin.  
Elizabeth Alvarez photo.*

- a. requiring more physical education in the curriculum,
  - b. eliminating the fine arts program,
  - c. altering the dress code,
  - d. requiring community service,
  - e. increasing requirements for graduation, and
  - f. mandating healthy food options in school cafeterias.
3. Students will view <http://www.senate.state.tx.us> and [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us). They will then form seven groups. Each group will design a new home page for one of the officials.
  4. Using the “Texas State Judiciary” section, teachers should invite a member of the local judiciary to speak to their classes on the duties and responsibilities of their position.
  5. In small groups or with a partner and using the “Texas State Agencies” section, students will create a visual advertisement for an agency.
  6. Using the “Texas State Boards and Commissions” section, students will select a board or commission that piques their interest. They will write a letter of inquiry to that board or commission asking for this information:
    - Purpose of the board or commission
    - Appointment process
    - Qualifications for appointees
    - Benefits of appointees
    - Recent activities of the board or commission.
  7. Students will use the “State Revenues by Source and Expenditures by Function” section to compute these problems.
    - a. Was there an increase or decrease in tax collections from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
    - b. Was there an increase or decrease in the net lottery proceeds from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
    - c. Was there an increase or decrease in the education expenditures from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
    - d. Was there an increase or decrease in the health and human services expenditures from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
    - e. Was there an increase or decrease in the public safety and corrections expenditures from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
    - f. Was there an increase or decrease in the lottery winnings paid from 2004 to 2008? What was the percentage of the increase or decrease?
  8. Check it Out! Teachers should view the website of the State Senate at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us>. Click on Senate Kids.



# Texas' Chief Government Officials

YEAR	ORDER	
_____	_____	Ann Richards took office as Treasurer of Texas.
_____	_____	This was the last year that Victor Blanco served as governor under Mexican rule.
_____	_____	Sam Rayburn was the 32nd Texas Speaker of the Texas House.
_____	_____	Miriam A. Ferguson took office as governor of Texas for the second term.
_____	_____	Domingo Terán de los Rios was the Spanish Royal Governor of Texas.
_____	_____	Kay Bailey Hutchison took office as a United States Senator from Texas.
_____	_____	William P. Hobby, Jr., took office as the Lieutenant Governor of Texas.
_____	_____	Anson Jones left office as the last President of the Republic of Texas.
_____	_____	Laura Welch Bush became the first lady of Texas.
_____	_____	Hardin R. Runnels left office as the governor of Texas.
_____	_____	Greg Abbott took office as the Texas Attorney General.
_____	_____	Annie Webb Blanton became the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
_____	_____	Lyndon B. Johnson began serving as a United States Senator.
_____	_____	Sharon Keller became the presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

