

LESSON 37

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Education in Texas

- *Texas Public Schools*
- *UIL Winning Schools*
- *Higher Education in Texas*
- *Universities and Colleges*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 21, 22, 23

7 - 21, 22, 23

8 - 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

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

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. PUBLIC SCHOOL QUESTIONS:** Students will read information about Public Schools in the Texas Almanac's Education section and **answer the questions** on the **Student Activity Sheet**.
- 2. PUBLIC SCHOOL CHRONOLOGY:** Students will read information about Public Schools and complete the **chronology and timeline activities** on the **Student Activity Sheet**.

Rice University in Houston was chartered in 1891 and opened in 1912. Photo by Robert Plocheck.



LESSON 37 – Education in Texas

- 3. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:** Students will research their school's TAKS scores, dropout rates, and attendance rates.

In small groups, students will brainstorm strategies that can be implemented to improve their school's scores/rates. Strategies will be presented to the class and to the principal.

- 4. OPEN HOUSE INVITATION:** Students will create a **Ribbon-Tied Invitation** (see Appendix) to an **open house** for a their school. The invitation should include:

date • day • time • location • program speakers
an illustration of the school in the center of the invitation.

- 5. EDUCATION EDITORIAL:** Using information from "Recent Developments in Texas Higher Education," students will **write an editorial** concerning one of the actions of the most recent Texas Legislature.

- 6. ENROLLMENT BAR GRAPH:** Using information from the "Universities and Colleges" table, students will select 10 universities or colleges and construct a **bar graph showing the most recent enrollments.**

To enhance their bar graph, students should research each university or college to discover the **school colors and mascots.**

Students will then use these colors on the bars of the graph. They could also **decorate their paper** with pictures of the various mascots.

- 7. UIL WINNING SCHOOL PROJECT:** Students will **select a school** in their **University Interscholastic League Conference** using information from the "UIL Winning Schools" table.

They then will identify either the academic or athletic accomplishment that the school achieved and:

- **Write a congratulatory letter**
- **Design a winning ribbon or medal**
- **Plan a pep rally for the school**

- 8. FRESHMAN YEAR SPREADSHEET:** Students will **write a letter** to the admissions office of a college or university of their choice (or use the college's website) to request a school catalog.

They will use the catalog to research information, such as:

majors • courses • tuition • fees • books • housing

Using this information, students will **create a spreadsheet** that reflects an overview of their freshman year.

- 9. E-D-U-C-A-T-I-O-N ACROSTIC:** Each student will **create an acrostic** using the word "EDUCATION" on the **Student Activity Sheet.**

Public Schools Questions

Students will read information about Public Schools in the Texas Almanac's Education section and answer the question listed below:

- a. What was the purpose of the **Public School Reform Act of 1995**?

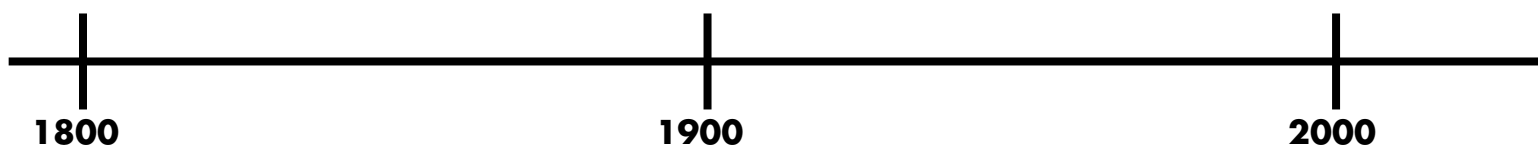
- b. Identify the different types of **charter schools**.

- c. HB 72 ("**no pass; no play**") provided for a six-week suspension from extracurricular activities, but was changed to three weeks. In your opinion, does this change in suspension time encourage academic achievement among students involved in extracurricular activities? Defend your position.

Public Schools Chronology

Students will read information about Public Schools in the Texas Almanac. Next, determine the year in which each of the events, below, occurred and write the year of each event in the blank. Place each event on the timeline at bottom.

- _____ The Texas public school system was established.
- _____ The Texas Congress designated land to support public schools and a state university.
- _____ President Lamar advocated setting aside public land for public schools.
- _____ The Legislature adopted HB 72 “no-pass, no-play.”
- _____ Texas students must pass the exit-level TAKS as a graduation requirement.
- _____ For the first time, free textbooks were provided.
- _____ The State Legislature was to designate at least 10 percent of its tax money for schools.
- _____ The state fund apportionment was 62 cents per student.
- _____ Public schools were reorganized by the Gilmer-Aikin Laws.



“EDUCATION” Acrostic

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