Science Leadership Network Meeting
December 2, 2025

R4 Team Copy

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
8:30-8:50	Welcome and Introductions	Region 4 Science Team • Dr. Edrice Bell, Director • Hanna Roach, K-5 • Dodie Resendez, 6-8 • Lindsey Curiel, 9-12 • Jen Wellman, STEM and Science	2025-2026 Science Leadership Network – Collaborative Tool https://bit.ly/25-26SLNTool Region 4 LN Protocols
8:50-9:30	Region 4 Has Your Back!	Region 4 Science Team	**Region 4 Professional Learning** • 25-26 PD dates • Science Academy on Feb. 17 • Science Institute on June 17-18 • Science Speaker Series • Technical Assistance • New Science Teacher Cohort • Coaching Packages **Science Conference**: Debrief Most Attended Region 4 Science Conference Session Topics • Retrieval Practices • Building Scientific Explanations • Data Driven STAAR Review • Managing the Science Classroom • Science Isn't 3D Without the RTCs • Leveraging the SEPs and RTCs to Improve Meets and Masters • Student Discourse • Lesson Internalization • Using Phenomena • Making Sense Through Writing • STEM Fluency **Upcoming Region 4 Events** • Conferences • K-5 Computer Science Training • JASON Learning Opportunity **Region 4 Products** • On the shelf: *Warm Up to Science for Grade 5*, *Warm Up to Biology* • Coming Soon: *Warm Up to IPC* and *Warm Up to Science for Grade 8*

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9:30-9:50	Professional Organizations	Region 4 Science Team	• **TSELA** – Upcoming meeting dates and locations • **CAST 2025**: Debrief - Space to share in SLN Collab tool slide 30 https://bit.ly/25-26SLNTool
9:50-10:00	Break		
10:00-10:15	TEA STEM and Science Updates	Region 4 Science Team	• Student Design Challenge Day on March 5 Teacher registration (Free event); Students work on solution to problem and present design/prototype at event • TEA STEM Toolkit – updated language, be sure to update your links and district/campus materials • Scientific and Engineering Practices Posters TEA science page link: https://tea.texas.gov/academics/subject-areas/science
10:15-10:35	Legislative Updates	Region 4 Science Team	• To The Administrator Addressed Correspondence https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence • HB and SB to watch TEA 89th Legislature Updates Page https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/government-relations-and-legal/government-relations/89th-legislature-updates - HB 8 FAQ was updated on 10.23.25 - Begin planning for updated IBC list by bringing everyone to the table ASAP (counselors, CTE, etc). Some middle school courses are not offered which impacts the ability of students to choose high school courses. Master schedules will be impacted. Example – Introduction to Culinary in high school has a pre-requisite in middle school that is rarely offered. - Reminder about how IBC impacts CCMR points in accountability. - Response from TEA when Help Desk was emailed courtesy of Tina Hovance - received this from TEA: "Thank you for reaching out to the Student Assessment Division. I wanted to provide you with the House Bill 8 Frequently Asked Questions document, which has been provided, to help answer any questions you may have. Science SST will not have constructed response items. Only the RLA EOY will have two parts. The purpose of the first part of RLA EOY is to be able to score the extended constructed response item in April in order to have results delivered on time in May. While final design decisions are still being made, having assessment results delivered within two days of the closing of an assessment administration window, most TEI items cannot be assessed on SST. More information on specific item

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			types will be provided in the future. I hope this information provides you with guidance." Have a great day, Dr. McMillion Assessment Division

10:35-10:55	District Spotlight	Lamar CISD	Michael Harvey – Google NotebookLM
			- Source Grounded tool. It is not an open AI resource and only uses the resources you want it to use unlike ChatGPT. It also doesn't tailor its responses to what it thinks you want to hear.
			- Powered by gemini
			- Can merge documents together (ex: lead4ward report and released STAAR)
			- Does include citations
			- Has more privacy than other platforms.
			- Started using it by uploading the legislative documents and asking for summaries, etc.
			- Also using it to assist long term subs in understanding the content they are about to teach.
			- Freemium resource has an abundance of options.
			- When sharing with teachers, remember about best practices when using AI:
			  o Being specific in prompting
			  o Requiring specific resources
			  o Privacy
			- Graphics are generated within the platform that match the content as well as videos.
			- Can also make flashcards.
			- When planning with a team you can use the mindmap feature.

10:55-11:45	Learning for Leaders: Using AI as a Thought Partner and Support Tool	Region 4 Science Team	*Refer to slide 31 in collaborative tool https://bit.ly/25-26SLNTool* *Activity Padlet: https://bit.ly/R4SciAI* *Adventure 1 Content Clarifiers:* - *ChatGPT was not as successful as Gemini and did not choose appropriate words to clarify on assessments* - *Several districts have included content clarifiers on their district assessments.* *Adventure 2 Phenomena:* - *Napkin AI for images is helpful* - *Anchoring phenomena are more difficult than an investigative or everyday phenomena* *Adventure 3: Student Supports* - *Magic School was helpful in creating a choice board for waves using multiple representations* - *Eduaide – engaging activities for acceleration as the prompt, provided would you rather and applied scenario, riddle and puzzle like questions.* - *Kanmigo? – can compare to real life scenarios* *Adventure 4: Sharing Tools and Best Practices*
11:45-12:45	Lunch		*Thank you to Discovery Education for providing lunch!*

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12:45-1:30	Evaluating Questions for SEPs and RTCs	Region 4 Science Team	Refer to slide in collaborative tool: *https://bit.ly/25-26SLNTool* Takeaways: - Questions do not always fulfill the whole SEP/RTC but more of a portion of it - The language of the TEKS is active, sometimes it difficult to transform that to an assessment scenario - Adding SEPs/RTCs sometimes increases the rigor/complexity of the question. - RTC question prompts can help or Tool #41 - STEM teaching tools have SEP prompts - Using the planning cards from the Wonder of Science can help ensure that those types of questions are included during instruction, so that you can assess those skills. - RTCs provide context to content
1:30-1:40	Break		
1:40-2:50	Cluster Set Writing	Region 4 Science Team	Refer **to** slides 33-35 in collaborative tool: *https://bit.ly/25-26SLNTool* Takeaways: - Must breakout of silos to create a great cluster item set - The presence of cluster item sets can help emphasize the use of anchoring phenomena to connect several concepts and helps drive home the point of science concepts are not isolated in the real world. - Starting from a stimulus is easier than making your own.
2:50-3:00	Closing Activities	Region 4 Science Team	Meeting Dates • *February 24, 2026* • *May 13, 2026*