



October 2, 2019

Attention Teachers and School Administrators:

Back in December of 2018 the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL®) program began the application process of renewing both courses with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

This has been a normal process for PAL® to renew our courses for the past 18 years. The PAL® courses were renewed for 2019-2020 with one significant change. We were alerted by TEA after the fact that they are no longer approving a range of course credit and now only approve a set amount. Due to that shift PAL® is currently approved for a 0.5 credit for each course.

PAL® has appealed this detail with the State Board of Education and are waiting to hear back on if the courses will be restored to a full credit each. During the time we are waiting to hear a response we wanted to make sure that you all had information and could make educated decisions that are best for your students in order for them to stay on track with credits needed to graduate.

New PAL® students are able to receive a full credit by taking one of the courses the first semester and the other course for the second semester. PAL® staff members have been in contact with some districts who are trying to make PAL® into a local credit. Some districts are filing grievances with TEA due to the issues this detail has caused for the thousands of students taking PAL®. Others have had to support students in choosing a new elective.

We will share future updates as they are made known to us and stand ready should anyone have additional questions or opportunities to share on how their districts are addressing the credit issue this year.

Sincerely,

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