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ECISD Curriculum Has Teachers Frustrated

Reporter - Nick Lawton - Jan. 17, 2012

ODESSA - The concerns of more than 200 teachers were taken to the Ector County ISD Board of Trustees on Tuesday night by a state agency.

What they're asking for is more breathing room to teach the curriculum and more communication from the administration.

It all has to do with the CSCOPE curriculum, designed to prepare students for standardized tests like the TAKS tests.

The Texas State Teachers Association, or TSTA, took a survey of 248 ECISD teachers and employees last week about the curriculum.

47% of those teachers don't think CSCOPE will raise test scores.

56% said CSCOPE moves too quickly for students.

Public comments called CSCOPE a total waste of money and too rigid and inflexible.

Many teachers said there is not enough time to really teach the students the material and it goes by too fast.

The Association presented that case, but ECISD officials are standing behind the curriculum.

"We've got to find a way to make it more teacher-friendly, more student-friendly, and get the communication going both ways," TSTA President for Region 2C, Chuck Isner, said.

"It was different for them, but it got better. Every year, it got better and better and easier and easier," Mattie White, Principal of Noel Elementary School, said. "Definitely raised test scores for the part of the district that used it."

The TSTA wants the curriculum to slow down, otherwise they said test scores have the potential to plummet.

They at least want more communication on the curriculum between ECISD administration and faculty.

Only time will tell if future years for the CSCOPE curriculum will get better than the first.

ECISD just piloted the curriculum last spring.