

Battelle for Kids Texas Focus

A Data-Based, Goal-Setting Process for Educators



What is Texas•Focus?

The University of Texas System Institute for Public School Initiatives is pleased to provide Texas TAP school educators access to **Texas•Focus**—a data-based, goal-setting instructional improvement process developed by **Battelle for Kids**.

Using Texas•Focus, Texas TAP school department or grade-level teams can analyze achievement and progress data. Over the course of this three-level analysis, you will:

- Examine and assess your student performance data.
- Establish the strengths and challenges associated with your current academic program.
- Identify one area of strength and one area of challenge around which to build team goals.
- Determine the root causes of your identified area of strength and area of challenge.
- Produce SMART goals and action plans to amplify/expand your area of strength and productively address your area of challenge.

At the end of the online analysis process, you will be able to download the **Focus Forward** document that inventories all the work you completed in Texas•Focus.

How long is the Texas•Focus experience?

Texas•Focus is designed to either complete in one sitting (approximately 2.5 hours) or by section (each of the three sections take approximately 45 minutes). Key to the process is establishing a facilitator and gathering your student performance information prior to beginning Texas•Focus. A helpful materials checklist can be found in the online introduction.

What are some Texas•Focus facilitation tips?

Before you begin the Texas•Focus process:

- Gather your student performance data.
- Preview the Focus Forward document example. You can download a PDF of a completed example on the first page of the online introduction.
- Read the “Limitations to Texas•Focus Version 1.0” in the introduction so you fully understand what the process can/cannot do.

During the Texas•Focus process:

- Use the downloadable PDFs to explain gain patterns, big picture examples, etc.
- When determining specific factors that could be contributing to identified strengths or weaknesses, encourage your team to utilize the factors they influence or control.
- As the team enters into the action planning portion of Level 3, the PDF action plan templates can be printed out and used as worksheets. Once Level 3 is completed and the Focus Forward document is downloaded, action plan steps can be added and edited in MS Word. After editing in Word, you can upload the final version into Texas•Focus, where it will be saved in your ePortfolio.
- Congratulate the team and remind them that while producing a thoughtful data-based plan is an enormous accomplishment, it is only the first step in constructing a better future for your students. Meaningful and enduring change is an ongoing, evolutionary process. To move forward you need a plan, but you also need commitment, persistence and leadership. It’s suggested that the team and facilitator meet quarterly to follow up, carry out, measure and/or adjust the action plan.

How do I access Texas•Focus online?

- Click on the “[My Portal](http://portal.battelleforkids.org/Texas)” tab on the Texas Educator Performance Awards Portal at <http://portal.battelleforkids.org/Texas> and log in.
- Once logged in, Texas•Focus can be found by clicking on “My Learn,” > “Enroll in Learning,” > “Enroll in a Course,” > then, selecting “Texas•Focus” from the course catalog.