

**HB 5 Webinar #2 Q & A  
February 26, 2015**

**Q: Were we supposed to type in our email address next to our name when logging in as a guest?**

A: You didn't have to, but that usually provides us with contact information to easily add you to our mailing list.

**Q: How do we get copies of all publications?**

A: Our Imci website, [www.lmci.state.tx.us/](http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/), will take you to the publications that we currently have available, and you can order those using our order form.

Follow this link, <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/OrderForms/orderform.html>, to fill out an order form and then simply fax it to us. You can also mail a completed form and your P.O. to us as well. The publications we highlighted in the presentation today are the ones we are currently working on. They have not been published yet, but as long as you are on our mailing list, you will get an update of any new product releases or updates that have been created and are available for order.

**Q: How will we be notified when the bulletins will be available?**

A: As long as you are part of our mailing list, and if you received the invitation for this webinar via email, you are a part of our mailing list, we will send an update and announcements as those products are available.

**Q: Who do we schedule for someone to give a presentation to our counselors?**

A: Again, as we referenced, you can contact Lori or Michelle and either one of us can come and do presentations for counselors. Just send us an email, and we will check our availability and get right back with you.

**Q: How will we be able to get the bulletins and the charting your course?**

A: Again, we will notify our mailing list any updates or new releases of materials, and you can order them using our online order form or by calling us.

**Q: How can we get this for our campus? How much will they cost?**

A: Well, each publication has a different cost, so it just depends on the publication that you are wanting or needing. For the bulletins, we had a similar bulletin that has been sold for 10 cents a copy. My guess is that, barring any large increases to printing costs, each new bulletin will also sell for 10 cents per unit.

Charting your course is a larger booklet. Should the printing costs remain the same from our older version, this item may sell at around \$2 per unit.

**Q: How will information about getting the bulletins be distributed to school districts?**

A: Again, every time we have a product release, we will be sending updates to our mailing list. All our updates are also released to the TEA's mailing list, so you can be a part of the TWC mailing list or the TEA mailing list and both agencies will send out notifications to let them know the publications are ready to order.

**Q: How much would this cost a district to join?**

A: I am assuming this question is in reference to our regional opportunities. I believe it would not cost anyone anything to participate. That is the goal and that is why we are asking for contacts that you

might know within your region that might want to work with us. We need to work with other agencies to see who can help provide a venue or help us pitch in for lunches so we don't have to charge those who attend.

We also want to offer professional development credit for those who attend. We need to find enough people to help us with these events, but would like to look to keep costs at a minimum.

**Update:** We were later informed that the TWC and the TEA have teamed up together before, wherein the TWC provided training to Educators and academic staff for professional development credit, and those workshops were always provided at no charge to the participants. We are hoping to duplicate this set up for the events we plan to put together with our partners.

**Comment: p-16 councils might help with bridging gap**

Response: Awesome, I am writing that down right now.

**Q: Please repeat: What are WDAs?**

A: That would be a Workforce Development Area. Essentially, this state is broken down into different areas of the workforce development regions in the state. Just like the state is broken down into 20 ESC regions, our WDA's are broken down into 28 regions. This means there is some overlap for the ESC regions and the WDA regions. We are hoping that as we create materials to be released in these regions, we will invite members from the WDA's and members from the ESC's so that we will have regionally appropriate members of both the workforce and the education side who can attend.

**Q: With what information are the help line staff trained with? Do they know high school graduation plans? Just want to be sure students don't get conflicting information.**

A: That's a great question. Essentially, when students call in to the 1-800 number, it's automated, they actually don't speak with anyone unless they want to. All students have to do is leave us their name and address and they can tell us they want information about ABC occupations and XYZ University. They are limited to 3 occupations and/or 3 colleges per call, but they can call multiple times if more information is needed.

If they call in during regular business hours and dial "0," they get our operator Roger. He is familiar with the High School Graduation Program, and he is also familiar with career clusters and things of that nature. Students can tell Roger they are interested in a particular industry, but may not know what they want to do as an occupation, and he can give them some occupation suggestions based on the industry they are interested in.

However, our help line is not geared to serve as a counselor for kids. It is more to provide labor force information as well as college/university information specific to particular jobs or schools that students are interested in.

**Q: Is that the labor information is gathered only from the TWC job postings?**

A: Actually, we have (BLS) Bureau of Labor Statistics and Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) folks that perform behind the scenes collection of labor market data from employers all across the state. That same type of information is used to generate the unemployment rate and all other labor market information, so it's not just from the job postings that we have, but the surveys in which the employers themselves are reporting data and statistics for the state.

**Comment: It is good to hear that publications will be offered as well as web sites.**

**Comment: I would be interested in helping to grow this program.**

Response: Great, that is awesome, Cynthia. Thank you for that. All of the email address that you guys are providing will be given to us and we will include you in our mailing list.

**Q: Can you offer regional career fairs for students currently in high school?**

A: Currently, we are attending a lot of career fairs at individual campuses. We have considered possibly hosting career fairs for different regions, but for right now, the high schools are taking care of that part for us.

**Q: Are you currently working with businesses and school districts collaborating to set-up any school to work programs, apprenticeships, or training programs?**

A: At this time, we personally are not doing that. I know this used to be done a long time ago, and I do believe we can help bring this to the table. That is one of the questions the academics, particularly CTE staff are asking us, "How do we connect with regional employers?" My answer is to find out where your local Workforce Solutions offices are and get to know the staff in your area. We can help you find the contacts. There are people in your regions who are affiliated with the TWC, and they are there and available to do just that. That is something we can help you navigate through if you need that.

**Comment: Thank you for all of the help you're giving school districts, counselors, and students!**

**Q: How do we access the Texas Reality Check software program?**

A: It's an online tool. Just go to [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com) and you can have complete access. I will tell you this website gets used a great deal, and sometimes during peak hours, it may run slow or it may lock up. We encourage you to try again. It's an incredible tool for anyone to use.

Right now we are getting just over a million hits a month on this particular software program, and we are looking at expanding our hosting availability on that because it is extremely popular and not just with the high schools or middle schools. There are a lot of community colleges in Texas that are using it and are making it a requirement for their students. That is really exciting to us.

**Q: Are the publications available to download such as a pdf file?**

A: Some of them are, and here's why. We understand that in different ISD's, some folks may have a budget for materials, so they can purchase from us completed products as they are. While others are working with a budget that only allows printing or copying materials, for example. Some of the files we have are booklets. They are larger and can be 40-60 pages long, so it may not be in a school's best interest to print out a bunch of copies of a large booklet. It might be better to order them for like 60 cents to two dollars.

Some products are available as pdf files, and you can go online to print them if you have that budget. We know that these are limitations that you all have to think about, and this is why we keep them at a minimal cost.

**Q: Can you post the power point? I was unable to access it.**

A: I believe this is available in the files pod for download. If you aren't able to access the file, for example, if you are on a mobile device, you may not be able to see the Files pod. Please put your email in the chat area here, and we can email it.

**Q: If we did not put our e-mail address on the line when we first started, how do we get on your list. I received information about this webinar, through TEA notification.**

No matter what updates, publication announcements or information we distribute, we will send those through our email delivery system as well as the TEA's notification system. Don't fret, if you received notification of our webinar, you will receive everything else.

**Q: Are there any apps for students to access?**

A: Currently Texas Reality check is available as a free app on the iPhone, and we are trying to cross that over to Samsung devices as well. Right now, that is our only app.

**Comments:**

Also, keep in mind, if there is anyone in your ISD's or at your school who you think might want this information or want to see this webinar, it will be available online soon. We do need to transcribe the information that is in this webinar, but give us a couple of days, and once it is posted, we will send an announcement to the TEA email list as well as the TWC email list.

I think that's it. Those are all the questions we have.

Thank you for attending, and have a wonderful day. Thanks!