Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Ed Vara, ECS Region 13, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Thurs. Feb. 28, 2013 Time: 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Documentation has been received through December, 2012. Notes are needed from February 8, 2013, and later dates, if any.

Topics discussed:

1. Ed said that the team originally composed for this work has begun to be replaced by a different but somewhat overlapping group. It appears that the first group is no longer collaborative around the issues of vertical alignment.
2. Susan Diaz has provided leadership for a group now working in Bastrop and Mariah (? I could not find on a map). This group is building on the earlier work of developing descriptors of college-level writing. They are planning an event at which their work will be shared.
3. This newer group is meeting on Tuesday, March 6. Each member is bringing a colleague to discuss recommendations for curriculum change related to descriptors identified.
4. An intervening concern in this work is how expectations for writing will be affected by possible changes in STAAR and EOC testing as a result of legislation that may pass this session. It seems likely that there will be fewer EOC tests than originally planned. This may mean fewer rubrics.
5. Ed perceives a need for thinking about writing in career and technical education, a need to diversify higher education options. How may different kinds of writing come to be associated with more differentiated curricular options?