



October 15, 2014

The University of Texas at Austin  
Associate Director of Admissions Michael Washington  
P.O. Box 8058  
Austin, TX 78713-8058

Dear Mr. Washington,

By way of introduction let me state that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators, with almost 60,000 families on our mailing list. We work to serve the home schooling community and to protect the right of parents to teach their children at home.

It has come to our attention that UT Austin has in place admissions policies that create significant and unique obstacles for home school students trying to gain admission to your university.

Current UT policy allows automatic admission for public and traditional private school students under Section 51.803 of the Education Code, which allows for the top 10 percent of the graduating class of public high schools or accredited private schools to gain automatic admission to public universities. However, UT Austin has no policies in place that seek to allow home school students similar opportunities, in spite of decades of studies and research indicating that home school students score significantly higher, on average, on standardized tests than their peers.

Currently home school students seeking admission to UT Austin have no opportunity to gain automatic admission to the university and are automatically sent to holistic review, from which only a very small percentage of students are accepted. Other universities have successfully implemented policies allowing home schoolers various forms of automatic admission so as to provide a system that is fair towards all Texas students.

Studies show that home school students score an average of 37 percentage points higher on nationally normed standardized achievement tests than students from traditional schools. Texas laws regarding college admission rightly seek to ensure that students who display academic excellence are encouraged to attend college by allowing them guaranteed admission to public universities. However, the policies in place at UT Austin make it extremely difficult for any home school student to gain admission, regardless of their academic achievement.

Section 51.9241 of the Education Code states, "An institution of higher education must treat an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student who presents evidence that the person has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education

Mr. Michael Washington, Associate Director of Admissions  
October 15, 2014  
Page 2

according to the same general standards as other applicants for undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high school.”

UT Austin’s policies create unfair and discriminatory requirements for home school students, who have no choice but to try to gain admission through holistic review. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to adopt new policies for home school students which allow for the fair treatment of all students based upon their own academic achievements. We would be happy to work with you in whatever way possible to ensure that home school students are treated fairly under UT admissions policies. Thank you in advance for your timely consideration and resolution of this issue.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tim Lambert,  
President, Texas Home School Coalition

CC: Office of the Governor, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, State Representative Dan Branch, State Senator Kel Seliger, State Senator Charles Perry, The University of Texas at Austin Office of the President, Texas home schoolers