



Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas
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July 21, 2014

Governor Rick Perry,
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry,

As you know, 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 school community and protect parents' right to teach their children at home.

It recently came to our attention that various Texas colleges are discriminating against homeschooled students in the admission process by requiring them to meet higher standards than public-schooled and traditional private-school students.

Sec. 51.9241 of the Texas Education Code outlines that public colleges must treat home school students, "according to the same general standards as other applicants for undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high school". Through a misunderstanding between our states colleges and the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the intention of this statute is being bypassed to the detriment of the home schooling community.

These schools are utilizing the criterion of class rank as one of their admission requirements, which, when applied to homeschooled students, often ends in the college assessing an arbitrary quartile rank for all home schooled students regardless of their academic achievement. Consequently, by being put into the 3rd or 4th quartile (as many of these colleges are doing for homeschooled students), these students are placed at a disadvantage. They have to meet higher test scores than they may otherwise have been required to meet had their rank reflected their individual academic abilities.

Studies show that home school students perform well above their peers academically, with the average home school student scoring thirty-six points higher on national standardized achievement tests than their public school counterparts. By assigning an arbitrary quartile score to home school students, these colleges not only do a great injustice to the students in question, but also ignore years of statistical data showing that home school students have stellar academic performance.

While most of these colleges cite the Uniform Policy of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as the reason for having these more stringent requirements for homeschooled students, the Board itself has

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stated that it only requires colleges to use class rank for automatic admissions under Section 51.803 of the Education Code, which does not even apply to home schoolers.

On behalf of the entire home schooling community, we would like to ask that you, in your capacity as Governor, contact the Higher Education Coordinating Board and ask them to clarify their policy to all Texas colleges. It is our hope that this history of contravening Texas's education policy by discriminating against home schooled students applying for college will be resolved.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding this issue. We look forward to working with you on this issue as we seek to resolve this misapplication of Texas law and end this unfortunate discrimination.

Sincerely,

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