



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION ASSOCIATION
Keeping Texas Families Free

January 6, 2015

Rosa Lopez, Assistant Director of Education
Wyotech
4373 North 3rd Street
Laramie, WY 82072

Dear Ms. Lopez,

By way of introduction, let me state that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators, with more than 50,000 families on our mailing list. As the advocacy organization for the state of Texas, we act as a liaison with state and federal agencies in regard to issues related to home education. In fact, the state department of education, the Texas Education Agency, frequently refers calls received by that agency regarding home education to our organization for verification or resolution.

It has come to our attention that WyoTech school has instituted new requirements for the entrance of home school students. This move has caused significant issues for a student whose family has been a part of the Texas Home School Coalition Association for many years.

L__P__ is attempting to reapply to WyoTech in order to attain additional certifications. He was previously a student for one and a half years at WyoTech as a Texas home school graduate, but he has found that new requirements make it impossible for him to be re-enrolled at your school. Since L__P__ completed his high school education in 2005, he no longer has access to some of the information that is being requested.

In the late 1990s the Texas Workforce Commission stated that Texas home school graduates should be treated like high school graduates. We have found that these new requirements for the application of home school students at WyoTech are inconsistent with the Texas Workforce Commission's policy. These requirements are also incompatible with Texas Education Code 51.9241, which qualifies Texas home school graduates as high school graduates. Specifically, the Texas Education Code states:

“‘Nontraditional secondary education’ means a course of study at the secondary school level in a nonaccredited private school setting, including a home school.

(b) Because the State of Texas considers successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education to be equivalent to graduation from a public high school, 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 according to the same general standards as other applicants for undergraduate admission who have graduated from a public high school.”

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The purpose of these laws is to ensure that home schooled students do not suffer discrimination, as well as to ensure equal opportunity for their admission into college. L__ P_ is legally recognized by his home state, Texas, as having graduated from high school and should therefore be treated as such.

We understand that the new conditions for home school students at WyoTech apply regardless of state standards. L__ P__, however, was previously accepted and had completed more than a year of classwork at WyoTech. Since your school has already recognized this student as a high school graduate, I strongly urge you to allow L__ P__ to be re-enrolled at WyoTech. L__'s family has been a member of our association for well over 15 years, and we can assure you that he has met all the requirements for high school graduation in Texas. I would be happy to talk to you about this personally if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Tim Lambert

CC: B__ P__, Laramie Campus President Guy Warpness, Admissions Manager Greg Taylor, Admission Representative Royce Estepp, Texas home schoolers