



Lamesa Independent School District
Every Student Every Day

Dear Parent,

This document indicates that you have received information regarding home schooling. Your signature indicates that you are withdrawing your child because he/she is being home schooled and denotes acceptance of the home school packet provided to you by Lamesa Independent School District. A copy of this document will remain in your child's cumulative folder.

Sincerely,

Name
Title
School

_____ is currently receiving home schooling.
(Student's Name)

Services began on _____.
(Date)

(Optional) Name of Curriculum being used _____.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____



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Dear Parent,

Attached you will find information about home school. The information can be found on the Texas Home School Coalition website. Lamesa Independent School District does not recommend, approve, support, or endorse any person, educational program, group, or any organization listed below.

Neither the Lamesa Independent School District nor the Texas Education Agency regulates, indexes, monitors, approves, or registers the programs available to parents who choose to home school.

In the event a home schooled student wishes to enter a Lamesa Independent School District school, assessment of the mastery level of courses would be done to determine grade placement and/or award credit. Neither the State of Texas nor Lamesa Independent School District will award a diploma to students that are home schooled.

If further information or assistance is necessary, please contact any of the attached Home School Support Groups or Regional/State Organizations. As a reminder, this information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Lamesa ISD



March 23, 2010

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

Re: Home Schools

The issues surrounding students schooled at home continue to be of significant interest to parents and school districts. Because of the number of inquiries the Texas Education Agency receives regarding this matter, I am providing some general information with respect to the Agency's position on home schooled students.

The decision rendered in Leeper et al. vs. Arlington ISD et al. clearly establishes that students who are home schooled are exempt from the compulsory attendance requirement to the same extent as students enrolled in private schools. Students should be disenrolled by school officials when they receive written notice either by signing withdrawal forms or a letter of withdrawal. It is not necessary for the parents to make a personal appearance with school officials or present curriculum for review. School districts which become aware of a student who is potentially being home schooled may request in writing a letter of assurance from the parents of the student regarding their intention to home-school the student. This letter may require assurances that the home-school curriculum is designed to meet basic education goals including reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and a study of good citizenship. Please note that a letter of this type is not required each year.

Additionally, it has been brought to my attention that there may be some confusion with respect to the awarding of transfer credit from students who have been home schooled. Students transferring from home schools should be afforded the same treatment as students transferring from unaccredited private schools. Awarding of credit for courses taken may be determined by reviewing the curriculum and/or work of the student, or by using appropriate assessments.

When appropriate assessments are used for determination of placement, the passing standard for those students who have been home schooled should be no higher than the standard required of students transferring from unaccredited private schools. As the Texas Education Agency has stated in the past, school districts may assess students by administering valid and reliable assessment instruments. The determination of whether or not to use such an instrument is a local matter. Districts may place students according to a review of the curriculum, course of study, and work of the student coming from a home school environment. Section 28.021 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires advancement or credit to be awarded on the basis of "academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter."

If assessments are utilized for determining placement, the agency would suggest the following guidelines for assessing students:

- 1) Elementary students should be assessed by means of a nationally recognized norm-referenced test or by a previously released TAAS or TAKS exam of appropriate grade level.
- 2) Secondary students may be assessed using the credit-by-examination methods for individual subject area or by a previously released TAAS or TAKS exam of appropriate grade level.
- 3) A secondary student assessed using the credit-by-examination method should be given adequate time to prepare for the test, particularly if multiple examinations are required. The standard of 70% for students to receive credit for courses they have already taken should be used rather than that the 90% standard for earning credit for courses not previously taken.
- 4) The Texas legislature amended TEC 29.916 that requires school districts to allow home school students the opportunity to participate in PSAT/NQMST and Advanced Placement (AP) testing that each district provides enrolled students. The statute also requires the district to notify the public via its website or local newspaper: of the dates of PSAT/NQMST and AP tests; that home school students are eligible to take the test; and the procedures for registering for such tests. This public notice must be posted or published at the same time and with the same frequency as the notice of the tests given to students attending the school district.

Finally, there has been some concern that school districts may be contacting Child Protective Services regarding children who are being home-schooled. While school officials are required to contact that agency in instances of abuse or neglect of a child, the determination of whether compulsory attendance has been violated should be made by the school district or local judicial authorities.

It is my hope that these policy statements will help to alleviate any confusion with respect to the issues surrounding notification, placement and the awarding of credit to previously home-schooled students. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott

Commissioner of Education

Texas Home School Coalition

Office hours: 9-5, Monday-Friday
www.thsc.org: 24/7

THSC
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Lubbock, TX 79493
voice: (806) 744-4441
fax: (806) 744-4446
email: staff@thsc.org

Texas Home School Coalition, Inc.

THSC, a 501(c)(3) educational organization, is the state support organization. Its mission is to serve and inform the homeschool community and promote home education in Texas. Its work is supported by tax-deductible contributions of individuals and families.

Texas Home School Coalition Association

THSC Association, a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization, serves and protects Texas homeschool families by lobbying and intervening in problems with government officials and others related to parental rights and the right to teach children at home--including written or verbal intervention. When necessary, THSCA will also provide legal assistance for members. Its work is funded by the sale of resources and the procurement of membership fees (not tax-deductible).

Texas Home School Coalition Political Action Committee

THSC PAC is a statewide political action committee, THSC PAC researches, endorses, and supports pro-homeschooling candidates. Its work is funded by donations (not tax-deductible) of individuals and families who are supporters of home education freedoms and parental rights.

[Board & Structure](#)

The Texas Home School Coalition is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Christian Home School leaders from across the state.

[Functions & Activities](#)

THSC promotes home schooling in Texas by providing information and help for individuals, training and support for leaders, and various other functions and activities to continue to advance home education.

[History](#)

THSC was established in 1986 when the founders, believing government restriction could not be justified academically or socially, formed the THSC PAC to oppose any regulation of home education in Texas.

Regional Support Groups affiliated with THSC

(listed alphabetically)

Christian Home Education Association of Central Texas (CHEACT)

(Austin, Central Texas)

PO Box 141998 Austin, TX 78714-1998

Phone: (512) 450-0070

Email: info@cheact.org Web Site: www.CHEACT.org

Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (FEAST)

(San Antonio, South Central Texas)

25 Burwood Lane - San Antonio, TX 78216

Phone: (210) 342-4674 Fax: (210) 342-7339

Email: store@homeschoolfeast.com Web Site: www.homeschoolfeast.com

Home Educators Alliance for Resources and Training of Texas (HEART of Texas)

(Greater Dallas/Fort Worth)

PO Box 211882 • Bedford, TX 76095-1882

Phone: (817) 803-3734

Email: info@heartoftex.org Web Site: www.heartoftex.org

Southeast Texas Home School Association (SETHSA)

(Houston, Southeast Texas)

10592-A Fuqua #503 - Houston, TX 77089

Phone: (281) 756-9792 Fax: (281) 756-8199

Email: staff@sethsa.org Web Site: www.sethsa.org

State Home School Organizations

Smoothing the Way

Mary James

Support group dedicated to serving first-year homeschooling mothers

PO Box 394

Red Rock, TX 78662

Phone: (512) 639-9341

Email: info@smoothingtheway.com Web Site: www.smoothingtheway.com

Texas' Special Kids

Doug and Patsy Arnold

Non-profit ministry organization serving families who have children
with special educational and/or developmental concerns

Web Site: www.TxSpecialKids.org