



# Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas*  
Tim Lambert, President • PO Box 6747 • Lubbock Texas 79493  
(806) 744-4441 • Fax: (806) 744-4446 • E-mail: [staff@thsc.org](mailto:staff@thsc.org) • [www.thsc.org](http://www.thsc.org)

April 20, 2010

Dr. Raymund A. Paredes  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
1200 E Anderson Lane  
Austin, TX 78752

Dr. Paredes:

By way of introduction, let me explain that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators, with almost 60,000 families on our mailing list. Our mission is to serve the home school community and to protect the rights and freedoms of parents who teach their children at home.

This letter is in response to notification our office has received which reports the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board officials are communicating that B-On-Time loans are not available to home school graduates. Specifically, Ms. Janie Miramontes with the THECB responded by email, after a series of emails, to inquiries regarding a B-On-Time loan. The response to a home school family was, "Unfortunately, the statutes state that a student must graduate from a public or private high school. Home schooled students are not eligible."

In fact, home schools *are* private schools according to state law, and home school students are to be treated the same as public or private school students in regard to eligibility for higher education admission as referenced in your memorandum of February 10, 2005, in regard to §51.9241 of the Texas Education Code. In 2007 the legislature amended Section 56.455 of the Texas Education Code through HB 1250 so that a student eligible for the B-On-Time loan is required to graduate under the recommended or advance high school program established under Section 28.025(a) *or its equivalent*. The stated purpose of this legislation was to make home school graduates eligible for the B-On-Time Loans.

According to the fiscal note on HB 1250, "The Higher Education Coordinating Board indicates that currently an individual graduating from an accredited private high school proves he/she has taken the "equivalent" of the Recommended High School Curriculum by having his/her counselor complete a form that shows the equivalences in his/her curriculum to the 22 1/2-credit requirements of the Recommended Curriculum. The Board assumes the process of determining whether a graduate from a nonaccredited high school has graduated with the 'equivalence' of the Recommended Curriculum would use the same approach when counselors are available." It is therefore, abundantly clear that the legislature intended that home school graduates be eligible for these loans.

<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Dr. Ray Ballmann <i>Glen Rose</i>	George Clay <i>Wichita Falls</i>	Kent Dowden <i>Wylie</i>	James Frank <i>Wichita Falls</i>	Donna Harp <i>Austin</i>	Pat Hurd <i>Weatherford</i>	
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Thank you in advance for addressing this issue and bringing the policies and procedures of the THECB into compliance with statute on this issue. We would be happy to act as a resource regarding the adoption of policy and procedure in this area should you wish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Lambert

cc: Ms. R\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_; Governor Rick Perry; Lt. Governor David Dewhurst; Ms. Janie Miramontes, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB); Mr. Albert Contreras, THECB; Mr. Dan Weaver, Supervisor, THECB; State Senator Kirk Watson; State Representative Dawnna Dukes; State Representative Elliott Naishtat; Mrs. Cynthia Dunbar, State Board of Education; Texas home schoolers