



# 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)

VIA FACSIMILE

October 1, 2012

Ms. Diann Taylor, Attendance  
Wichita Falls ISD  
1104 Broad St  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

Ms. Taylor:

By way of introduction, let me explain that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators with almost 70,000 families on our mailing list, some of whom live in your district. Our mission is to serve the home school community and to protect the right of parents to teach their children at home.

I am writing regarding Mr. and Mrs. J\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_. The M\_\_\_\_ family enrolled their daughter L\_\_\_\_ in the pre-K program at Jefferson Elementary for the 2012-2013 school year. The third week of school, L\_\_\_\_ started crying about going to school. Mr. and Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ made the decision to withdraw their daughter to homeschool her based on allegations that her teacher had been pulling L\_\_\_\_'s hair and that L\_\_\_\_ was fearful of attending school as a result.

Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ went to the district office on September 24, 2012, to sign district withdrawal forms. Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ talked to you and to Ms. Patricia Pompey, and she reports that you told her that she could not withdraw her daughter, since the school year was already in session. According to Mrs. M\_\_\_\_, you also stated that the Head Start director and pre-K director, Carol Marlar, confirmed this information. Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ also reports that you told her that she would be taken to court and fined more than \$500 if she stopped bringing her child to school.

Ms. Taylor, the information you gave to Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ is incorrect. Parents are not denied their right to withdraw a child to homeschool simply because the school year has begun. Ms. Pompey and the director of Head Start are also in error on this point of law.

Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ followed through on her intent to homeschool her child by sending a letter of withdrawal, certified/return receipt requested, on September 25, 2012, informing the district that the M\_\_\_\_ family would begin homeschooling L\_\_\_\_ on September 27, 2012, and she has since received delivery confirmation.

Mr. Pat Page, the principal of the school, left a voicemail on September 26, 2012, stating that he talked to L\_\_\_\_'s teacher and that he and the teacher wanted to meet with Mrs. M\_\_\_\_. Mrs.

Ms. Diann Taylor  
October 1, 2012  
Page 2

M\_\_\_\_ has declined to meet with them and is instead responding to this inquiry by sending a letter of assurance today, October 1, 2012, as recommended by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in a letter dated March 23, 2010, which I have enclosed for your review.

Ms. Taylor, according to the Texas commissioner of education, it is not necessary for a parent or guardian to make an appearance at the school or to complete school forms to disenroll their child if they have given written notice of withdrawal; neither is it required by law. Mr. and Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ have given written notice of the withdrawal of their daughter and have cooperated with your requests in the manner recommended by the TEA. Please disenroll their child immediately. Should you or the district fail to do so and/or pursue charges of truancy or thwarting compulsory attendance against Mr. and Mrs. M\_\_\_\_ or their daughter, we will take any and all necessary legal action against you and/or the district to remedy the situation.

Sincerely,



Tim Lambert

Enclosure: Commissioner Letter

cc: Mr. and Mrs. J\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_; Dr. John Frossard, Superintendent, Wichita Falls ISD; Mr. Pat Page, Principal, Jefferson Elementary School; Ms. Carol Marlar, Elementary Curriculum Director, Wichita Falls ISD; Ms. Patricia Pompey, Truancy Case Worker, Wichita Falls ISD; Mr. Michael L. Williams, Commissioner of Education; State Senator Craig Estes; State Representative Lanham Lyne; Mr. Bob Craig, State Board of Education; Texas home schoolers