

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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October 15, 2014

Mr. Tim Lambert, President  
Texas Home School Coalition  
P.O. Box 6747  
Lubbock, TX 79493

Dear Mr. Lambert:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 1, 2014 expressing your concerns regarding acceptance of Verification of Enrollment (VOE) forms for home schooled children applying for a Texas driver license.

While the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) cannot speak for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as these are separate agencies, we can assure you that DPS has not changed our policies and continues to accept the VOE form from home schooled children in accordance with the provisions of Texas Administrative Code Title 37, Chapter 15, Rule §15.39 and Texas Transportation Code Section 521.204 (a)(3)(A) which makes reference to "...a student enrolled in a public school, home school or private school...."

You mentioned that "...a parent was told by the Clear Lake DMV office that the VOE form was no longer a valid form of identification for her child and that no education-based documentation would be accepted from the family because the teenager was home schooled." We made an assumption that you were referring to the DPS office at Clear Lake rather than a DMV office and initiated an inquiry with the Regional Manager for the DPS driver license office at Clear Lake regarding this allegation by your constituent.

Our inquiry revealed an encounter similar to what was alleged to have occurred where an 18 year old female, accompanied by another female identified as the mother of the 18 year old went into that office to conduct a driver license transaction. The teen presented a birth certificate and a social security card but no documentation to verify residency as required by Texas Administrative Code §15.49. The mother had no identification. The mother claimed the daughter was home schooled and presented a hand written VOE in order to prove residency which is unacceptable for that purpose. The VOE is useful for limited purposes including verification of enrollment and as you noted a supporting document for identity but cannot be used for proof of residency. The 18 year old daughter did not require a VOE due to her age. The mother became visibly upset when informed the daughter did not require a VOE and that the VOE was not an acceptable document for proof of

residency. They were offered alternatives for proving residency, specifically in the form of a residency affidavit but the mother refused.

We trust that this information clears up any confusion regarding the use of the VOE for identity purposes.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

Joe Peters, Assistant Director  
Driver License Division

xc: Governor Rick Perry; Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst; Chairman Larry Phillips;  
Chairman Robert Nichols; Director Steven McCraw; Deputy Director Robert Bodisch; Marguerite  
Buster