



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rob Eissler
Chairman

Scott Hochberg
Vice Chairman

February 17, 2012

Commissioner Robert Scott
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioner Scott:

During the 2011 legislative session, the Texas House of Representatives went on record opposing the overemphasis of standardized testing in our public schools. Opposing excessive testing is not a retreat on school accountability and rigorous standards in the classroom. We firmly believe that a student who graduates with a Texas diploma must be ready with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully pursue a college degree or enter the workforce.

For the 2011-2012 school year, districts will not receive an accountability rating as we transition into the new system, but unfortunately our students are being held accountable for all provisions immediately. This is not fair or good policy.

Current law requires that an end-of-course assessment be counted as 15% of a student's final grade in a course. We would like to formally request that you defer the 15% provision for the 2011-2012 school year. While we agree that the provisions of Chapter 39 may not be waived under your general waiver authority, we believe that you have authority, by virtue of the transition plan authorized under Section 39.025(f), to defer the requirement that an end-of-course assessment count as 15% of a final grade until the 2012-2013 school year to coincide with full implementation of the testing and accountability changes.

We strongly believe this action is in the best interest of our ninth grade students. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Members

Alma Allen • Jimmie Don Aycock • Harold Dutton • Ryan Guillen • Dan Huberty • Mark Shelton • Todd Smith • Mark Strama • Randy Weber