

October 27, 2009

Dr. J.D. Kennedy, Superintendent
Midlothian ISD
100 Walter Stephenson Road
Midlothian, TX 76065-3418

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter postmarked August 11, 2009, requesting that the Completion Rate I statistics be recalculated and the accountability ratings be adjusted accordingly for Midlothian ISD and Midlothian High School. After careful review, your appeal is granted, and the ratings for Midlothian ISD and Midlothian High School are changed from *Academically Unacceptable* to *Academically Acceptable*.

Your appeal stated that data errors involving economic status negatively impacted the completion rate for the Economically Disadvantaged student group.

The source of the Economically Disadvantaged status is the fall Public Education Information Management (PEIMS) submission. The agency must process the completion data using the last non-missing economic status that is available for a student. This means a student's economic status can be from a prior year and can be supplied by a different district.

Districts are accountable for all students who last attended the district during their final year, including students who are not enrolled on the October PEIMS "snapshot" date. In these situations, districts cannot update the students' economic information, so their status is based on information reported in a prior year. Agency research indicated two students cited in your appeal were in this situation, and your documentation corroborates the change in the economic status requested. The change in status for these students improves the completion rate sufficiently for the school and district to attain the *Academically Acceptable* rating.

As a result of appeals citing this circumstance, the agency will investigate a change in PEIMS to collect economic status on the summer attendance submission. This would enable economic data to be submitted by each district of attendance.

Please note that, although the 2009 accountability data tables and Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports for Midlothian ISD and Midlothian High School will reflect the changed ratings, the completion results will remain unchanged from those published in July.

After the completion of the appeals review process, the agency will issue listings of final ratings and update the 2009 ratings information on its website in November. However, you may certainly publicize these decisions within your community prior to that update.

Legislation passed during the Third Called Session of the 79th Legislature requires use of an appeals panel to ensure independent oversight of the state accountability appeals process. The use of an external, independent, three-member panel has been a feature of the state accountability system since 2004. Panelists reviewed every appeal submitted and provided advice to the commissioner on each

appeal decision. The decisions reflected in this transmittal incorporate their objective analysis, deliberations, and recommendations regarding the unique circumstances of your appeal.

Any clarifying questions regarding this appeal may be directed by telephone to either Criss Cloudt at (512) 463-9701 or the Division of Performance Reporting at (512) 463-9704, or by email at performance.reporting@tea.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott
Commissioner of Education

c: Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner for Assessment, Accountability, and Data Quality
Shannon Housson, Director, Performance Reporting