

June 16, 2010

Michelle Meier
U.S. Department of Education
OESE/AITQ
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202-6200

Dear Ms. Meier,

Impending changes in Texas' State Board of Education's Graduation Requirements rule necessitate the adjustment of our allowed continued uses of secondary HOUSSE. Below, please find the proposed changes to secondary HOUSSE and a justification of the proposal.

Currently Approved:

Any experienced secondary teacher may continue to use HOUSE to demonstrate subject matter competency for mathematics or science for documenting highly qualified teacher status.

- This option only applies to secondary teachers who teach mathematics or science courses.
- This option is to allow LEAs and teachers to prepare for the new state high school graduation requirements for four mathematics and four science credits.
- This HOUSE option will phase out at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. For this purpose, "end of the 2012-2013 school year" is defined as the last day of the 2012-2013 school year calendar, as defined by the LEA, which may include the summer school calendar if offered as part of the 2012-2013 school year.

Proposed Change:

Any experienced secondary teacher may continue to use HOUSE to demonstrate subject matter competency for any course accepted by the Texas State Board of Education for required graduation credit for documenting highly qualified teacher status.

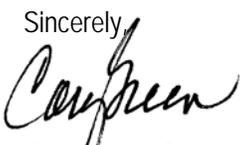
Justification:

On January 15, 2010, the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted amendments to the graduation requirements. The new graduation requirements are effective beginning in the 2010-11 school year. In adopting the new graduation requirements the SBOE expanded the number of rigorous approved courses, including advanced Career and Technology Education courses, to be counted toward meeting the new graduation requirements. Also included in the new graduation requirements is four years of mathematics and four years of science credit.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our proposed amendment.

Sincerely,



Cory Green, Senior Director
Division of NCLB Program Coordination