



Scott Placek <txedrights@gmail.com>

RRISD Position on Substitute Assessments

2 messages

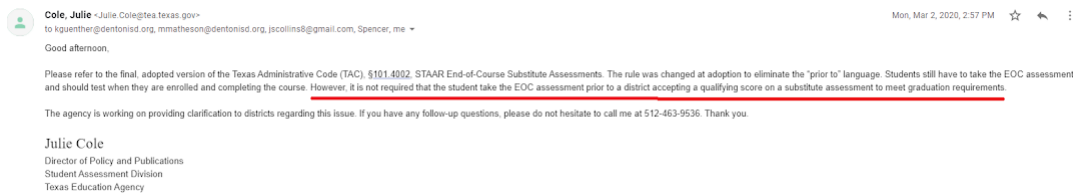
TX Ed Rights <txedrights@gmail.com>
To: sandra_carpenter@roundrockisd.org

Tue, Mar 9, 2021 at 11:43 PM

Ms. Carpenter:

My records show that on March 2, 2020 you and I had a discussion regarding the position being taken by Cedar Ridge counselors and RRISD assessment staff that the commissioner's rules required a student to attempt an EOC prior to using a substitute assessment to satisfy graduation requirements. We discussed the fact that the prior attempt language was proposed in rulemaking but removed, and that the only requirement for taking the EOC for a student using a substitute assessment was for accountability - not graduation - purposes and contained no timing requirements. At the close of that call you told me that RRISD would accept the substitute assessment for graduation purposes regardless of whether the student has taken the EOC.

Over the course of the last year, I have spoken with many other districts that were confused by the proposed rule and the removed language at adoption. On several occasions, I have even had to have Julie Cole at TEA chime in on an e-mail chain and say things like this:



But I thought we had addressed this issue at RRISD. I was shocked today to have a parent point me to this statement on the RRISD website:

Substitute Assessments

Since the beginning of the STAAR assessment program in 2011-2012, students have been eligible to substitute assessments in place of a corresponding end-of-course (EOC) assessment to meet the student's assessment graduation requirements. (Texas Administrative Code RULE §101.4002).

In July 2017, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) amended this rule to reflect recent revisions to the ACT and SAT assessments. A wide range of tests from ACT and SAT as well as certain Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) tests that meet college readiness benchmarks or that indicate students are on track to be college ready can be used as substitute assessments. Full list of possible substitution options.

The TEA has clearly defined the rules for substitute assessment. Specifically, students must attempt the appropriate EOC assessment at least once before using a substitute assessment. The Substitute Assessment Flowchart may be helpful in determining whether a student may use a substitute assessment to meet a graduation requirement.

Can I please prevail upon you to have the Assessment staff revise this page to deliver only accurate information. It is perfectly proper to let students know that even if they use a substitute assessment for graduation purposes, they will need to take the EOC for accountability purposes only. But to suggest that something as important as graduation is contingent on taking the STAAR EOC when they already have a qualifying score in hand is simply inaccurate.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Scott Placek
512-886-2205

Any questions asked or answered via email do not form an attorney-client relationship between you and the author of the e-mail. Do not ask for specific legal advice or disclose confidential information in an e-mail. The information in any e-mail constitutes only general summaries of the issue and should not be relied on for legal decision making. If you have any questions regarding your specific situation, always consult an attorney who can represent you before relying on the information.

TX Ed Rights <txedrights@gmail.com>
To: Legal Services <Legal_Services@roundrockisd.org>

Wed, Mar 10, 2021 at 2:37 PM

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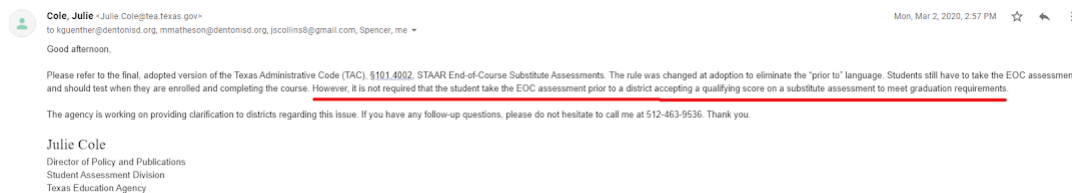
----- Forwarded message -----
From: **TX Ed Rights** <txedrights@gmail.com>

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 To: <sandra_carpenter@roundrockisd.org>

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