

**From:** Ratcliffe, Debbie [mailto:Debbie.Ratcliffe@tea.state.tx.us]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 11:42 AM

**To:** fwever1@att.net

**Subject:** FW: What does TEA think about the following letter to the Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees.

Mr. Wever: Your email was referred to me yesterday and I did some research and here is what I discovered.

We would prefer for the district to continue to work with the students and help them earn a Canutillo ISD diploma.

If the students go to this online high school, they will not receive a diploma from a Texas public school. They would get a diploma from a private school. There is no state regulation of private schools, so the quality of the degree is just evaluated by the consumer. I'm not familiar with this program so I don't know if it is accredited by any reputable body. If it is not, it could make it harder for these students to get accepted into college or hired for a job. We get calls all the time from employment agencies that are calling to check about whether some individual graduated from a real Texas school.

For purposes of awarding a state accountability rating to the school and district, a student who completes his senior year and does not pass the exit exam requirements is considered a dropout unless they reenroll in a public or private school or receive a GED by August 31 of the graduation year.

Debbie Ratcliffe

Director

Communications and State Board of Education Support