

August 17, 2009

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All County Extension Agents

SUBJECT: **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND 4-H ELIGIBILITY ISSUES**

As an educational agency, Texas AgriLife Extension Service supports the Texas Education Code and academic responsibility of student 4-H members. The dedication of Extension faculty to see that 4-H members comply with the provisions of the Texas Education Code is important to the effective adherence of the rule among our 4-H members. Extension faculty must be dedicated to complying with the Texas Education Code requirements in order for the Texas 4-H Program to maintain the status of an extracurricular organization.

The Commissioner of Education is not authorized to approve extracurricular organizations outside of school sponsored or UIL sponsored groups. Local Boards of Trustees are responsible for the sanctioning and approval of outside organizations as "extracurricular organizations" for their individual districts. Therefore, it is imperative for CEA(s) to ensure 4-H is designated as an extracurricular organization in each of the individual school districts residing in the county.

Continuing on September 1, 2009, all 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school, must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

Complete a "Declaration of Eligibility Form"

Or

Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.

Consistent with the UIL rules, the Texas 4-H Program has adopted a three (3) school week waiting period upon change in status of school enrollment (i.e. from public to private or private to home or home to public or home to private) before the 4-H member is eligible for extracurricular activity. *As a result of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislation, no significant changes were made in TEA or UIL rules and procedures.*

School districts requiring that Texas AgriLife Extension Service employees be screened or have proof of screening is occurring statewide. Mr. Stephen Schulze, Assistant Director for Human Resources, can work with you to get proof of our recent agency employee screening and your status. Some school districts are also requiring finger printing. Our employees must abide by their requirements to receive adjunct faculty status.

### **SPECIAL ATTENTION:**

As a reminder of the 76<sup>th</sup> Legislature passing House Bill 3573, three significant changes were made in regards to extracurricular activities and student eligibility. These changes include:

- a. Authorizes the Commissioner of Education (instead of the State Board of Education) to adopt for extracurricular activities and to approve or disapprove UIL rules and procedures. (TEC §7.102)

**Christopher T. Boleman, PhD, CVA**  
4-H and Youth Development Program Director  
7607 Eastmark Drive, Suite 101  
College Station, Texas 77840

Tel. 979.845.1211  
Fax. 979.845.6495  
cboleman@ag.tamu.edu  
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>



