

Academic Fraud in Credit Recovery

Ayde R. Davis

Thu 6/2/2016 6:06 PM

To: Overfelt, Joshua <joshua.overfelt@sfdrcisd.org>;

4 attachments (2 MB)

TEA Complaint.pdf; Complaint Report.pdf; Table of Contents.pdf; TEA Admonition.pdf;

Hello Mr. Overfelt,

My name is Ayde Davis and I am a high school math teacher currently working with credit recovery and ACAP students. This e-mail is to communicate to you the academic fraud taking place in credit recovery at Del Rio High School.

Credit recovery is a program designed to allow students to "recover" a credit they failed through traditional instruction. According to state law, "A student may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level." The tests that are used to measure proficiency are delivered through a computerized instruction delivery system called [REDACTED]. Teachers in credit recovery are allowed (expected) to help the students take all tests that show proficiency of content. I consider this cheating, because the teacher is doing the work for the students.

The worst example of the credit fraud in credit recovery has occurred when some teachers do not know the material and have provided the students with the answers taken directly from the [REDACTED] answer bank that is only available to teachers and administrators. I witnessed this on numerous occasions and communicated this to my supervisor, ACAP counselor [REDACTED]. My attempts to do the right thing led to Ms. [REDACTED] trying to isolate and discredit me.

By the end of the school year, 2014-2015, I was totally isolated. Nonetheless, I openly rebelled against the cheating and decided to report the academic and attendance fraud to TEA. I have included a shortened version of the original complaint made to TEA as an attachment. This complaint was sent to Superintendent Dr. Carlos Rios, TEA, and DOE on November 20, 2015. I also gave to SFDRCISD investigators a comprehensive report which details the academic fraud for 2014-2015. (See the attachments: Complaint Report and Table of Contents).

The worst part of the current system is the example we are setting for the students. The students are being taught by authority figures that cheating is a viable option to achieve their goals. This must change because students now know that the easiest way to pass a course is through credit recovery. I believe that a system can be created that allows struggling students to learn that success comes from effort while maintaining high graduation rates. But first and foremost, the teachers at DRHS must have input into any credit recovery system that is developed. As one teacher told me, "They [administration] input the grades into grade book and we have to accept them." Therefore, the genesis of any credit recovery system put in place should rest with a committee of teachers representing the various disciplines.

When reading the Complaint Report, please keep in mind that the data represents only the most obvious cases of cheating. I would estimate that only about 3% of our credit recovery students complete their tests with no assistance. Furthermore, episodes of cheating outlined in the Timeline represent only cases I have witnessed and/or could document. They learned very quickly to hide things from me. Their resolve to conceal things even resulted in Principal [REDACTED] baring my husband, a math professor at Southwest Texas Junior College, from volunteering his time in credit recovery to help the students improve their math skills!

I would like to meet with you to discuss these charges, ideas for improving the credit recovery system, and to answer any questions you may have. I can also share with you at such time further evidence that demonstrates the cheating in credit recovery continues to this very day. I have included as an attachment an admonition from TEA warning school district board members and administrators to abstain from exactly the type of activity that is

9/2/2017

[REDACTED]
taking place at Del Rio High School. Last year, 2014-2015, over 1000 semester credits were awarded through credit recovery, so this gives you some idea of the scope of the problem.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I look forward to your response.

Ayde Davis

ACAP/Credit Recovery Math Teacher
[REDACTED]

Note: All documents referenced in the Complaint Report are available upon request.