

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate Committee on Education,

As you take into consideration the feasibility of establishing statutory minimum or baseline performance standards for state education policies, I ask that you consider those students whose maximum is the minimum.

With the new establishment of the 4x4 plan, in which students must complete four years of science and math to graduate under the recommended plan, it has been seemingly overlooked that a large percentage of students still graduate under the minimum. In 2005, 38% of students in the state of Texas graduated under the minimum high school plan, three years of math (not including Algebra II) and two years of science (Biology and IPC). These students, many in special population programs, overcome disabilities, language barriers, socio-economic, and life situations to complete high school under the minimum plan. For some students in Special Education, English as Second Language, and at-risk situations, the minimum high school plan is the maximum goal.

If a statutory minimum or baseline performance standard for the state is to be set, it must reflect the expectations set for ALL students to succeed, performance based on three years of math and two years of science. To raise the accountability bar any higher would automatically leave behind 38% of students who COULD have graduated in the state of Texas. Thank you for your time and I look forward to further discussion and correspondence on this matter.

*Andrea Webster*