



**T E X A S**  
**HOME SCHOOL**  
**COALITION ASSOCIATION**

## **The THSC's comments and recommendations on the Sunset Review of UIL**

The Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization with more than 60,000 families on our mailing list. THSC has serving home educators and protected parental rights in Texas for more than 25 years.

In 1913, the Texas legislature established the University Interscholastic League (UIL) with the stated purpose of enhancing the educational experience of all Texas students through extracurricular activities in order to equip them for good citizenship. The original constitution of the UIL--article III section 1--opened UIL activities to all public and private school students, which included home school students. ([goo.gl/oY AoC](http://goo.gl/oY AoC))

In 1919, the UIL modified its rules to exclude all students except white, public school students. Consequently, the Texas Interscholastic League of Colored Schools (TILCS) was formed to allow minority students to compete in their own, separate leagues. The discrimination continued until 1965. ([goo.gl/wHtLD](http://goo.gl/wHtLD))

In 1965, C.D. Yancy, the director of the minority league, met with the UIL director Rodney J Kidd to discuss the possibility of "opening membership to all schools." UIL took one large step toward ending discrimination by uniting with the league for minority students. These discriminatory practices still continue in the form of discrimination against home school students. ([goo.gl/b9Vqz](http://goo.gl/b9Vqz))

With approximately 350,000 home school students in the state of Texas, the continued existence of discrimination against those students has become a prominent issue. Particularly for home school students who live in rural areas of the state, alternative options for extra curricular activities can be few or altogether absent.

Although home school families still pay the taxes that fund the local school's stadiums and UIL activities, they are nonetheless prevented from participating. Twenty-eight other states have already passed legislation allowing home school students to participate in extracurricular activities in their school district, while Texas continues to discriminate against well qualified students based on their form of education.

Many students who excel in sports or music have been forced to choose between a form of academic instruction that fits their learning style, or a future in an activity that they are gifted in.

In coalition with the reforms adopted by the UIL ending discrimination against minority students, the Texas Home School Coalition recommends that the Sunset Commission and UIL staff consider and pursue policies that allow for the equal participation of home school students in the University Interscholastic League activities.