THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Via Interagency Mail

The Honorable Michael Williams
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress Avenue
Agency Code: 701

Dear Commissioner Williams:

Senate Bill 175 (by Sen. Florence Shapiro and Rep. Dan Branch), passed by the 81st Legislature, modifies the top-ten-percent automatic admission program at The University of Texas at Austin. Under this law, the University is to admit automatically enough students to fill 75% of available spaces set aside for Texas residents in an entering freshman class.

Section 51.805 (a-2) of the Texas Education Code requires the University, in a manner prescribed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and not later than September 15 annually, to

> provide to each school district, for dissemination of the information to high school junior-level students and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission under Subsection (a) are anticipated by the institution to be offered admission under Subsection (a-1) during the next school year.

The following instructions, received from the TEA, are the "manner prescribed":

1. The President of the University will send to the Commissioner of Education a letter explaining which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission the University anticipates offering admissions for fall 2016.

2. The Texas Education Agency will post a letter from the Commissioner on the "To the Administrator Addressed" Web site with the letter from the President of the University as an attachment.

3. The University will send a copy of the President's letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) Executive Directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all Texas school districts.

Using data from recent years, the University has determined that automatically admitting students in the top 8% of their high school graduating class to the 2016 entering freshman class will fill 75% of available spaces. As a result, The University of Texas at Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2016 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 8% of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

This information is provided to you in accordance with provisions of SB 175 and instructions from your office. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dr. David Laude, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and Graduation Management. We will send a copy of this letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) Executive Directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all school districts in Texas.

We appreciate your assistance and that of the Texas Education Agency in disseminating this information to high school juniors and their parents across the state.

Sincerely,

William Powers, Jr.
President

WP/dwd

cc: The Honorable Kel Seliger, Chair, Committee on Higher Education, Texas Senate
The Honorable Dan Branch, Chair, Committee on Higher Education, Texas House of Representatives
Dr. David Laude, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and Graduation Management, The University of Texas at Austin