

*This email is intended for Brazos County Youth Livestock Show participants, please disregard if you will not be participating.*

Good afternoon, Brazos County 4-H members!

In an attempt to make the academic eligibility verification process more efficient and manageable for our schools and families, **our office will be handling ALL BCYLS academic eligibility & excused absence verification for the 2024 show.** **This will eliminate the need for physical eligibility form submission.** That being said, I wanted to make a few key points regarding this year's process.

1. **ELIGIBILITY FORMS WILL NOT NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOLS OR OUR OFFICE.** We will be verifying the eligibility of **every** 4-H member entered in BCYLS.
2. **Academic eligibility** verification follows UIL & TEA's guidelines of "no pass, no play". Specific information can be found here: <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/academic-requirements>
3. **Excused absences** will only be requested for the day you will be participating, as declared on your entry. If additional dates need to be added to the request, please let me know by February 29. This goes for additional events and responsibilities such as Special Edition Show, Ag-You-Cate, etc.
4. **Homeschooled families**, for the sake of uniformity in our documentation, I will be requesting eligibility verification the same way for homeschoolers that I am for everyone else, I will just send that communication to the parents instead of the schools.
5. **Ideal timeline for communication** with schools is as follows:
  - a. **March 1-** list sent to schools to verify eligibility & absences
  - b. **March 6-** deadline for schools replies before reminders are sent
  - c. **March 8-** FINAL DEADLINE for all declaration of eligibility
6. I have started a line of communication with all school districts in the county, and **they are aware of the new system** and are working diligently towards providing me with a list of contacts at each campus.
7. **For all other livestock shows & all district contests-** eligibility verification responsibilities will continue to be handled by families. This is **ONLY** for BCYLS eligibility.

As previously mentioned, we are doing this in hopes that the process is more efficient and more manageable for our schools and our parents. We understand that with all change, comes some reservation. If you feel the urge to submit your own form to the school, you can (***but please adhere to the 3/8 final deadline***), but *you will still be included on the list I send* **AND** *their communication with me will be the primary source of verification*, so additional form submission is not advised or required. Though we are confident in our preparation to handle this task, we still ask for patience as we navigate this new procedure.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or our office. We will be happy to answer any questions or further explain the procedure.

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