

October 25, 2005

Dr. James Phillips, Dr. Richard Hughes, Board of Education
Hardin County Schools
65 W. Jenkins Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Dear Dr. Phillips, Dr. Hughes and Hardin County Board Of Education:

I am requesting early graduation for December 2005. I have two and one-half credits left to earn which I will be completing this fall semester. I have earned the required credits while being enrolled in various residential facilities around the state. My plan when I graduate your high school is to attend Kentucky Wesleyan College part time with a part-time job. I am recommitting myself to the state for help and to get more education.

Graduation has not always been on my mind. It was always based on everything but getting my education. I didn't have anyone pushing me to go. If I went that day it was because I wanted to. When I lived with my father he did not let me miss school, not even one day when I was sick. I was going to school, no matter what. My dad made sure that I was there. Things changed when I ran away from my dad. I didn't believe I was a very smart kid because I always told myself this is too hard, way too hard for a girl like me. Now I look at things like a challenge, even getting up in the morning.

I find myself looking in the dictionary, encyclopedia, and thesaurus, which in my past you could never get me to pick up on my own. I was not able to read while in high school for the fact my self-esteem was lower then the dirt under gravel. I wanted to be one of those who picked on the others instead of me being picked on. When I realized it was not cool at all to do that, I started to get in more trouble by standing up to those that picked on the nerds as they called us. They called me "Black eye pea". It used to make me cry but now I laugh at it a lot just to look back on it. To be able to write this to you and feel happy about myself when I am doing it is amazing to see how far I have come. I would just ask for early graduation and nothing else.

It also makes me proud to hear my father's voice when I say, "Daddy, I am graduating high school" with out the "haah I hate school". This sounds dumb now. Up until my little sister taught me how to spell father I have always spelled it farther and I believe that may have hurt my father. This is why I feel I have earned early graduation. How hard it was to earn my way here to be able to ask you for this. My plan was to drop

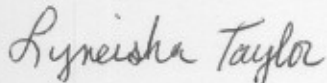
I have never believed school had so much to offer until I heard the same questions over and over again: are you going to college? What is your dream? Lyneisha what do you want for yourself? In my mind I want to become a Lawyer for Criminal Justice, but in my heart I want to become a singer. That's where my heart is. I understand that you can't do right with a do wrong attitude is very true. You have to stand when you believe something is wrong with a positive attitude. Always look at the better picture not always the bad. I still need help with my school so I will do what ever it takes to graduate your high school. I don't want to end up like my mom on crack and sleeping here and there.

I love myself enough to want the diploma for me. I know I don't need to focus on friends but to get my head straight, off the boys and on myself. I have a mom helping me get my life together, not slowly messing it up. I have also cut school once upon a time just to see this boy that did not care about me at all. That's another reason why I am so into school right now. I have lived the street life a very long time, for three years. Yes you could learn a lot on the street but you would be risking your life. I write really good stories and I plan to write a screenplay for a movie, which I have started. I have also finished my portfolio but I still continue writing.

To graduate in December would be the most exciting thing that has ever happened to me. I am also asking to walk across the stage in May with the other graduates. I would rather walk across the stage with dignity and pride knowing how much I have accomplished.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyneisha Taylor". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with a large initial 'L'.

Lyneisha Taylor

65 WA Jenkins Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Dear Dr. Hughes:

Hello sir, my name is Matthew Groves. I am currently a resident at Baptist Youth Ranch and a senior at the on campus school. I am seventeen and have been to nine different placements since my freshman year of high school. I am writing this letter to request permission from you to be able to graduate from the Hardin County School System in December.

Since, I have been to nine different placements throughout my high school years I have earned twenty-three credits. My freshman year I was a freshman at West Carter High. My sophomore year I started at Boyd County High, then moved to Smyrna High in Smyrna, Tennessee, then moved back to Boyd County. My junior year I started at Boyd County, and then transferred to Greenup County High. I started my senior year at Ramey-Estep High before I moved here to the Baptist Youth Ranch.

The reason I want to graduate early is to be able to start college classes for college credit. My plans after graduation are to go to University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, or Eastern Kentucky University. While attending one of these three colleges I am going to major in Political Science and minor in Secondary Education in Social Studies. For my Political Science major I was thinking that I might go to law school and become a lawyer. If that doesn't workout then I'll fall back on my minor in Secondary Education and become a teacher in Boyd County where I am originally from.

I want to say thank you Dr. Hughes for taking time out of your schedule to consider my early graduation request.

Thank You,


Matthew Groves