

**From:** Scott English <[scott\\_english@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_english@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** Tom Davistdavis@harveyandbattey.com  
Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 5/23/2014 9:35:00 AM  
**Subject:** Re: "Let Them Walk" Beaufort SC

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Tom --

I understand Beaufort County School District agreed to allow students to march.

In terms of the 2014 graduates, we do not have statutory authority to issue diplomas for the class of 2014 if they did not pass the HSAP. We are issuing guidance to districts today regarding the petition process for students who did not receive a high school diploma solely because they failed to pass the HSAP test.

If the General Assembly passed a Joint Resolution allowing for a waiver of the exit exam requirement for the 2014 graduates, that would change how the class of 2014 students would be treated.

Hope that helps, let me know if you have any questions.

Scott

On Friday, May 23, 2014 9:26 AM, Tom Davis <[tdavis@harveyandbattey.com](mailto:tdavis@harveyandbattey.com)> wrote:

Scott and/or Katherine: is there anything that either the governor or the superintendent can do to help in this matter (see below)? Providing some measure of relief here would provide comfort to a lot of people in the Beaufort community, especially Matt's daughter. Thanks for checking into this. Tom

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**From:** Matt Trumps [<mailto:mtrump@islc.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:29 PM  
**To:** Tom Davis  
**Subject:** RE: "Let Them Walk" Beaufort SC

Thanks Tom.

**Matt Trumps**  
**Tideland Realty, Inc.**  
**843-252-8996**

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**From:** Tom Davis [<mailto:tdavis@harveyandbattey.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Matt Trumps  
**Subject:** Re: "Let Them Walk" Beaufort SC

I will follow up on this for you, Matt.

Tom

On May 22, 2014, at 2:24 PM, "Matt Trumps" <[mtrump@islc.net](mailto:mtrump@islc.net)> wrote:

Governor Haley, My name is Matt Trumps and I'm a proud parent of a beautiful senior young woman at Beaufort High School who has special needs, yet has passed all aspects of the requirements for graduation outside of 6 points on the HSAP math portion which you terminated in last month's law. The school district is not allowing students like my daughter to take part in the graduation ceremonies around Beaufort County even though all of these hardworking kids will be able to pick up their diplomas after the law goes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. For many of these children this is it for their graduation; few

will go on and even fewer will earn a full college degree. Simply putting on that cap and gown and even being handed a blank sheet of paper will instill a sense of pride that many have never felt. It costs the district nothing and I can assure you their fellow students who did pass the HSAP will be proud to have them standing alongside them.

I know you are busy so I will be brief. There is a school board meeting tonight to vote on whether to allow these students not to "be left behind" and I'm simply asking you to reply all to this e-mail which includes the Superintendent and school board members and ask them to let these kids walk. Only good can come from this. Attached is a stream of correspondence between myself and the district and immediately below is an article which was printed in the Beaufort Gazette this morning regarding this issue. Thank you for your time and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Matt Trumps

**Matt Trumps**  
**Tideland Realty, Inc.**  
**843-252-8996**

**Beaufort Gazette link...** <http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/21/3122496/seniors-who-didnt-pass-exit-exam.html>

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**From:** Matt Trumps [<mailto:mtrump@islc.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014 5:33 PM

**To:** 'Mccord, Gregory A'

**Cc:** 'Evans, Bill M'; 'Rivers, Michael'; 'Moss, Jeffrey'; 'Murphy, Corey J'; 'Beckert, Jim'; 'Lisa Trumps'; 'tdavis@harveyandbattey.com'

**Subject:** RE: Student Graduation II

I have spoken with Mr. Murphy and have to say that I am most displeased with the decision that you all reached. The suggestion that allowing these few students to walk opens the doors to future issues with students in situations like failing a class by a few points or letting others walk before completing summer school is without merit. These students have met the requirements for graduation and receiving a diploma except for the fact that the HSAP law goes into effect July 1, 2014. It does not open the door for persons who have not met the requirements in the future unless some other law is passed of similar nature. We are asking you to give them a grandfathering of some 24 days to enable them to walk with their classmates and not students from other schools three months later. If these students needed to attend summer school or re-take the HSAP or some other form of testing I would concur and understand, but since they simply need to pick up their diploma a month later, what does it matter or hurt to have them on the stage. Please reconsider your decision and I hope the members of the school board who are empowered to override your decision will **step up to the plate** and do what is right in lieu of just sitting back and let the clock run out to shield themselves with an excuse that there just wasn't enough time. Remember, this is a ceremony, these can be handed a piece of paper and get the satisfaction of being there and pick up their diplomas in July.

Sincerely,

Matt Trumps



**Matt Trumps**  
**843-252-8996**

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**From:** Mccord, Gregory A [<mailto:Gregory.Mccord@beaufort.k12.sc.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Matt Trumps  
**Cc:** Evans, Bill M; Rivers, Michael; Moss, Jeffrey; Murphy, Corey J; Beckert, Jim; 'Lisa Trumps'  
**Subject:** RE: Student Graduation II

Mr. Murphy will be speaking with all affected parents regarding the discussions held with senior staff and all High School Principals, thank you.

Dr. Gregory A. McCord  
Chief Student Services Officer  
Beaufort County School District  
2900 Mink Point Blvd  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
843-322-5431 (office)  
843-521-7631 (cell)  
[www.beaufort.k12.sc.us](http://www.beaufort.k12.sc.us)

Office of Student Services Vision Statement

“To support the mission of the Beaufort County School District in such a way that enables all students opportunities for academic growth and behavioral development towards good citizenship.”

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**From:** Matt Trumps [<mailto:mtrump@islc.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014 4:25 PM  
**To:** Mccord, Gregory A  
**Cc:** Evans, Bill M; Rivers, Michael; Moss, Jeffrey; Murphy, Corey J; Beckert, Jim; 'Lisa Trumps'  
**Subject:** RE: Student Graduation II

Dr. Gregory, Just following up to see how the discussion with your senior staff went yesterday and if a decision was reached?

**Matt Trumps**  
**Tideland Realty, Inc.**  
**843-252-8996**

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**From:** Mccord, Gregory A [<mailto:Gregory.Mccord@beaufort.k12.sc.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2014 3:37 PM  
**To:** Matt Trumps  
**Cc:** Evans, Bill M; Rivers, Michael; Moss, Jeffrey; Murphy, Corey J; Beckert, Jim; 'Lisa Trumps'  
**Subject:** RE: Student Graduation II

I apologize but I did respond. I will reiterate that the decision to remove the HSAP test as a requirement for graduation will begin with next year's graduation class therefore meaning that this year's class will remain as is. I will however bring the discussion before our senior staff on Monday.

Dr. Gregory A. McCord  
Chief Student Services Officer  
Beaufort County School District  
2900 Mink Point Blvd  
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**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2014 3:28 PM  
**To:** Mccord, Gregory A  
**Cc:** Evans, Bill M; Rivers, Michael; Moss, Jeffrey; Murphy, Corey J; Beckert, Jim; 'Lisa Trumps'  
**Subject:** Student Graduation II

Mr. McCord,

I wrote you back on April 28<sup>th</sup> regarding students who have passed all of the curriculum for graduation, but have not passed the HSAP or a portion of it being allowed to participate in the graduation procession (letter below). I have not heard back from you or anyone from your staff at this point. Today we learned that my daughter did not pass the math section of the HSAP so an answer to my question is now more imperative. Graduation is only a few weeks away and I would like to hear that the policy has been amended for students in my daughter's situation. Please advise as soon as possible as to where things stand.

Sincerely,

Matt Trumps

**Matt Trumps**  
**843-252-8996**

Mr. McCord,

I spoke with Jim Beckert a few minutes ago and he suggested that I write you regarding a request for the County / Board of Education to review and change a policy regarding special needs children / IEP students / ADA students. My daughter, Emily, has completed all requirements to graduate from Beaufort High School excepting the HSAP Math portion, which we hope she has passed on her most recent attempt, but will not find out until the week before graduation. My understanding is that if she does not pass the HSAP, then she will not be allowed to walk at the graduation ceremony because she is on a "diploma track". I am told that prior to Mrs. Truesdale, students like my daughter were allowed to participate in the ceremony but that the policy was changed. Next year the HSAP goes away so this will be irrelevant. I am asking that the policy be changed now so that students like my daughter (I have no idea how many there may be) are able to be rewarded for the hard work they have endeavored to complete for four years struggling each day with their physical and cognitive limitations; most of whom will not attend or complete college. The graduation ceremony for them is a spotlight and victory recognition for a job well done. For most of them, it is an opportunity to be seen by their peers as equals, which is something they rarely, if ever, obtain. Their walking across that stage affects no one and nothing negatively, but affects them and their families tremendously. I hope that you will take steps immediately to repeal whatever policy prohibits these young adults from attaining the honor of crossing that stage.

Sincerely,  
Matt Trumps  
843-252-8996

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