February 23, 2006

Bruce R. Marton  
Associate Director, Student Information Systems  
University of Texas at Austin  
Main Building, Room 13B  
Austin, TX  78712

Dear Mr. Marton,

Thank you for your submission (dated January 23, 2006) to the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) of the High School XML Transcript developed through the High School Transcript Workgroup. As stated in your Letter of Intent from April 18, 2005, your objective is that the High School XML Transcript become an approved and recognized education standard.

Together, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Program’s (NCHELP) Electronic Standards Committee (ESC), PESC’s Standards Forum for Education, the Office of Federal Student Aid of the U.S. Department of Education, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Officer’s (AACRAO) Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) Committee, and the entire education community have worked closely over the past few years to develop an objective, sound process for approving standards (see http://www.PESC.org/info/Policies-Procedures.asp.). With the development work completed and submitted on January 23, 2006, the High School XML Transcript is now immediately ready for public comment period.

PESC will post all High School XML Transcript documentation on its website on Thursday February 23, 2006 and hold a 30-day public comment period. Comments will be submitted to the PESC office and routed to your attention to address and resolve within the High School XML Transcript Workgroup and in cooperation with the Standards Forum’s Change Control Board (CCB). Once the public comment period is over and all issues are resolved, we will then present the High School XML Transcript for vote by PESC Members and for ratification by the PESC Board of Directors.

The work that you have and the Workgroup have completed marks a significant milestone in education. We encourage you to continue your leadership role in actively identifying areas where cost containment and improved customer service can be achieved through standards. Congratulations to you and the entire Workgroup for the time and effort you have put forth to improve the delivery and exchange of student data. You continue to reach significant milestones and the education community owes you thanks.

As always, I look forward to working with you and the education community. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Sessa

cc: PESC Board of Directors  
PESC Steering Committee  
Tom Stewart, AACRAO SPEEDE Committee