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June 29, 2015

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #15-05

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dale A.R. Erquiaga
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Educational Choice Scholarships

This guidance memorandum is issued pursuant to the authority provided in NRS 385.175(5), directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enforce the observance of Title 34 of Nevada's statutes and all other statutes and regulations governing public education.

Assembly Bill 165 of the 78th Regular Session created the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program, and the bill became effective upon passage and approval in April of this year. The Department has, as of June 25, 2015, adopted temporary regulations to implement the provisions of this legislation. However, temporary regulations are not effective until 35 days after adoption and filing with the Secretary of State. (During this period, legislators may ask that regulation be reviewed by the Legislative Commission if they object to its provisions.) However, this office is well aware that scholarship organizations and schools need to take preparatory steps toward full implementation in a timely manner – and that taxpayers are already eligible to seek this incentive from the Nevada Department of Taxation.

In order to begin to implement the Scholarship Choice program, I am directing that the Department of Education will accept for filing the registrations of scholarship organizations and private schools wishing to participate in the program as of July 1, 2015. This will allow organizations and schools to begin their respective processes so that scholarships can be awarded to pupils in accordance with the existing law and with the regulations after their full effective date in August.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale A.R. Erquiaga".