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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #17-27.1

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Steve Canavero Ph.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Guidance on the sun setting of the High School Proficiency Exam(s)

The purpose of this Guidance Memo is to provide further clarification regarding Guidance Memo #17-27, Sunsetting of the HSPEs.

In 2013, AB 288 transitioned the state away from the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) to the End of Course Exam (EOC). The bill allowed the State Board to maintain the HSPE as a graduation requirement for years 2013-14 through 2015-16. AB 288 also required the administration of the HSPE for students that continue to need it as a graduation requirement. All references to the HSPE have since been removed from the Nevada Revised Statutes.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, AB 7 was passed. Section 52 of the bill removes the requirement that students pass EOCs in order to receive a Standard High School Diploma. The bill requires that the State Board adopt regulations that prescribe the criteria for students to receive a Standard High School Diploma.

Due to the HSPE no longer being a requirement under the Nevada Revised Statutes and AB 7's removal of the requirement to pass the End of Course Exams for receipt of a Standard High School and Adult Standard Diploma a student in Nevada is no longer required to pass the High School Proficiency Examination to receive a standard high school or adult standard diploma.

Any student denied a standard high school or adult standard diploma solely because the student did not satisfy any existing requirement to pass the High School Proficiency Examinations will be issued a standard high school or adult standard diploma if:

- (1) The student submits to the school district or charter school in which the student was last enrolled in high school a written request for a determination of whether the student, notwithstanding the failure of the student to satisfy any existing requirement to pass the High School Proficiency Examinations, otherwise satisfied any existing requirements to receive a standard high school or adult standard diploma; and
- (2) After reviewing the transcript of the student and any other relevant documentation, the school district or charter school determines that, notwithstanding the failure of the student to satisfy any existing requirement to pass the High School Proficiency Examinations, the student otherwise satisfied existing requirements to receive a standard high school or adult standard diploma.

The sunsetting of the HSPEs does not affect any other course or credit requirements for receipt of standard or adult diploma. In order for a petitioner to receive a standard or adult diploma pursuant to Guidance Memo 17-27, all other requirements must be met. LEAs must ensure that notwithstanding the HSPEs the petitioner has met all credit AND where applicable, specific course requirements that were in effect the year the petitioner was scheduled to graduate. Upon receipt of a written request for a transcript review, each Local Education Agency shall make a determination, and notify the petitioner of the same within 120 calendar days.

This guidance is applicable to students with disabilities as well as those without disabilities. Students with disabilities must meet all credit and specific course requirements that were in effect in the year in which they were scheduled to graduate. LEAs must ensure that the transcript review process is consistent between disabled and non-disabled petitioners. The credit and course requirements in the year in which the petitioner was scheduled to graduate must be applied to both disabled and non-disabled petitioners.

Once and LEA has made the determination that a petitioner has satisfied all graduation requirements notwithstanding the HSPEs, a standard or adult diploma may be issued. The date reflected on the diploma shall be; October 21, 2017. This date represents when the sunsetting of the HSPEs went into effect. LEAs that have issued diplomas pursuant Guidance Memo 17-27, but prior to Guidance Memo 17-27.1 are not required to issue a second diploma in cases where the date reflected is not, October 21, 2017.

There is no time limit or window in which a former student must petition an LEA for a transcript review. It is anticipated that the bulk of written requests will be made in the current school year. However, the option for a former student to petition an LEA for a transcript review will not terminate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Carver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.