GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #17-27

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)

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 is 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.