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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #18-18

TO: School District Board of Trustees, District Superintendents, and Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

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

SUBJECT: Half-Credit Graduation Requirement for Computer Education and Technology

Senate Bill 200, passed in the 79th Nevada Legislative Session (2017), states that “if the State Board prescribes a course in computer education and technology pursuant to NRS 385.114 for pupils enrolled in high school, the State Board shall adopt regulations prescribing the percentage of the instructional time for the course that must be dedicated to computer science and computational thinking, which may include, without limitation, instruction in logic, coding, robotics, and cyber security”.

Regulation R078-18 amends NAC 389.450 (the required courses of study for graduation from a public high school) from the former *Use of Computers* to *Computer Education and Technology* as prescribed in Senate Bill 200, and sets the percentage of instructional time for the course to include at least 50% dedicated to computer science and computational thinking. This regulation passed the State Board on August 30, 2018 and was codified into law by the Legislative Commission on September 27, 2018.

Districts and charter schools have been previously notified and given the 2018-2019 school year to update the curriculum for this existing course to include the required 50% instructional time dedicated to computer science and computational thinking. Many districts call this course *Computer Science and Applications* to provide clarity on the new subject matter being taught. The graduating Class of 2023 will be the first required to have this updated course on their transcripts.

Some districts and charter schools meet this regulation in middle school. That may continue, according to regulation. A waiver may be provided for any middle school student who has taken the half-credit technology course through the 2018-2019 school year. However, districts and charter schools shall only offer the revised course beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. A guidance document to inform districts in curriculum design may be found on the department’s website and includes the subset of high school computer science standards and high school technology standards required in this revised half-credit course.

References to this memorandum:

- Senate Bill 200 - [Senate Bill 200](#)
- R078-18 - [R078-18.pdf](#)
- Guidance Document for half-credit course for graduation - [Standards Instructional Support Nevada Academic Standards Science Guidance Document-CSA half credit grad course.pdf](#)

Please submit any questions to Cindi Chang, Programs Professional for Computer Science, Office of Standards and Instructional Support - cchang@doe.nv.gov | 702.486.7952