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May 8, 2019

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #19-03

TO: Nevada School District Superintendents
State Public Charter School Authority

FROM: Jhone Ebert
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Handwritten signature of Jhone Ebert.

SUBJECT: Standard High School Diploma Requirements

Existing law ([NRS 389.018](#)) requires specific subjects designated as the core academic subjects that **must be taught** and that pupils **must enroll in**, as applicable for grade levels, in all public schools. Additional statutory notations in [NRS 389.018 include the following](#):

- ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school diploma, an adjusted diploma or an alternative diploma, as applicable.
- ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of [NRS 389.021](#), unless a subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion to the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with this subsection.

In addition, laws passed in the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session included additional academic subject areas required to be **made available** and **must be taught** as follows:

- [Senate Bill \(S.B.\) 200](#): Ensures that a course in computer science that has been approved by the State Board is **made available to** pupils enrolled in public high schools.
- [S.B. 249](#): Revised [NRS 389.018](#) and the core academic subjects that **must be taught** to include under the three units of credit in social science: one-half unit of credit in American government; two units of credit in American history, world history or geography; and, one-half unit of credit in economics

The laws stated above revise the requirements of making certain courses **available** and **taught** at a public high school to include those additional core academic subjects, as listed above. However, neither of these laws, nor current statute [NRS 389.018](#), revise or displace the **units of required courses** that the State Board of Education prescribed for a pupil to earn a standard high school

diploma per [NAC 390.440](#); [R-120-17](#).

Existing law ([NRS 390.600](#)) provides the Nevada State Board of Education the purview of adopting regulations that prescribe criteria for the **standard high school diploma**. On April 26, 2018, the Nevada State Board of Education adopted regulations ([R-120-17](#)), which prescribed the criteria and units of credit for a pupil in the graduating class of **2022** (matriculating class of 2018) to receive a standard diploma ([NAC 390.440](#)).

The Department will consult with the State Board of Education during the regulatory process (opens July 1, 2019) as to whether, or not, the State Board wishes to pursue additional regulatory revisions to [NAC 390.440 to align with NRS 389.018](#).

In the interim, if you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, (775)687-9217, ghill@doe.nv.gov. This memo does not expire and will operate in perpetuity until replaced.