



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment  
John Payne, Director, Office of Exceptional Children  
Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

**DATE:** April 28, 2014

**RE:** South Carolina General Assembly House Bill 3919

This memorandum is to provide information and updates regarding House bill 3919. House bill 3919 was signed by Governor Haley on April 14, 2014. The text is posted at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3919&session=0&summary=B>.

### **The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exit Examination**

Section 59-18-310(B)(1) states that:

*Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, students are no longer required to meet the exit examination requirements set forth in this section and State Regulation to earn a South Carolina high school diploma.*

The change becomes effective with the class of 2015. HSAP will be administered for the last time during the summer of 2014. As in the past, all districts must offer the HSAP during summer 2014 to eligible students as defined in the Student Participation Guidelines section on page 13 of the Spring 2014 HSAP Test Administration Manual. For students with disabilities for whom Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams deem would have participated in HSAP **after** Summer 2014, a selection of "NA" should be designated in the appropriate section of the child's IEP.

## **Assessments for Grades 3-8 and 11**

Section 59-18-325(A) says that:

*All students entering the eleventh grade for the first time in school year 2014–15 and subsequent years must be administered a college and career readiness assessment as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and by Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and that is from a provider secured by the department.*

The Department will notify districts as soon as assessments for grades 3–8 and 11 have been secured. For students with disabilities, subsequent guidance will be forthcoming regarding the participation of students with IEPs on the assessment identified for grades 3–8 and 11. It is important that IEP teams, during annual reviews, discuss the upcoming changes to the statewide assessments, as well as consider the standards being taught at each grade level as those will be measured on any assessment secured by the Department.

## **WorkKeys**

Section 59-18-325(A) also states that:

*In addition, all students entering the eleventh grade for the first time in school year 2014–2015 and subsequent years must be administered a WorkKeys assessment.*

The Office of Assessment will manage the administration of the WorkKeys assessment to all state-funded eleventh grade students. Information about the administration of WorkKeys will be provided to districts as soon as a contract is signed. More information regarding testing students with disabilities, including those students with significant cognitive disabilities, will be forthcoming in a joint memorandum from the Office of Assessment and the Office of Exceptional Children.

## **High School Diploma**

Section 59-18-310(B)(2) states

*(2) A person who is no longer enrolled in a public school and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma or was denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements pursuant to Section 59-18-310(B) and State Regulation may petition the local school board to determine the student's eligibility to receive a high school diploma pursuant to this chapter. The local school board will transmit diploma requests to the South Carolina Department of Education in accordance with department procedures. Petitions under this section must be submitted to the local school district by December 31, 2015. Students*

*receiving diplomas in accordance with this section shall not be counted as graduates in the graduation rate calculations for affected schools and districts, either retroactively or in current or future calculations.*

Procedures will be developed for receiving and disseminating high school diplomas. Until such time, it is recommended that school districts that receive requests for diplomas collect contact information so that procedures, when completed, can be distributed. It is also recommended that, in preparation for these requests, districts become familiar with the location of transcripts of former students.

If you have questions about the summer administration of HSAP, please contact Kevin Fatica at [KJFatica@ed.sc.gov](mailto:KJFatica@ed.sc.gov) or 803-734-8282. If you have questions about how the bill affects high school diplomas, please contact JC Ballew at [JBallew@ed.sc.gov](mailto:JBallew@ed.sc.gov) or 803-734-3131.