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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

**DATE:** June 23, 2009

**SUBJECT:** High School Diplomas by Examination

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this action is to request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State Board of Education, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) that stipulates how the State Board of Education and DLLR will collaborate in the awarding of high school diplomas through the GED Tests and the External Diploma program. The MOU includes a set of assurances to address the Board's request that the Department establish controls to ensure the integrity of the diploma process. The Board is also requested to approve regulations that will govern these high school diplomas by examination.

**BACKGROUND:**

In its 2008 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 203 to transfer the Correctional and Adult Education programs from MSDE to DLLR on July 1, 2009. In accordance with this statute, Section 11-807 of the Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, now requires that the Secretary of DLLR consult with the State Board of Education in drafting regulations that govern the Maryland Adult External Diploma Program (EDP) and requires the Board to award diplomas to individuals meeting the requirements of Subtitle 8 of Title 11. Section 11-808 of the Labor and Employment Article further requires that the regulations governing the award of high school diplomas through examination (GED Tests) be adopted jointly by the Secretary of DLLR and the Board. The Board has requested the development of controls which can ensure that the integrity of the diploma will be maintained.



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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the May 27, 2009 meeting of the State Board of Education, Tom Perez, Secretary of the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) presented an update on the status of the transfer of the Adult and Correctional Education programs from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to DLLR. As part of his update, he shared, for discussion, a draft Summary of Proposed Adult Education Regulations, and a draft MOU. In consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and in collaboration with DLLR, proposed regulations for the GED Tests and External Diploma program and a MOU between the State Board of Education and DLLR have been developed.

**ACTION**

We request approval of the MOU between the State Board of Education and the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation and the proposed regulations for the General Educational Development and Maryland Adult External High School programs.

NSG/kmo

Attachments