

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **APPROVE RESOLUTION 07-2015-16 AWARDED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS
TO ALL PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADULT EDUCATION
STUDENTS WHO HAVE SATISFACTORILY MET ALL SUBJECT
REQUIREMENTS, CONSISTENT WITH SB 725 AND SB 172**

I. SUPPORT INFORMATION

Existing law required the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in English, language arts and mathematics in accordance with State academic content standards. Existing law required, commencing with the 2003–04 school year and each school year thereafter, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school.

On August 26th, 2015, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 725, which provided that the high school exit examination would not be required as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school for a pupil completing grade 12 in 2015 who had met all other high school graduation requirements. In order to ensure that pupils who had not passed the high school exit examination but had met all other high school graduation requirements received a high school diploma as quickly as possible, the bill was determined to be an urgency statute. Unfortunately, SB 725 addressed students only in the class of 2015, and did not consider students who came before (or will come after) last year's class of graduating students.

On September 10, SB 172 was approved by the State Legislature, which would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school for pupils completing grade 12, for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years. Once signed by the Governor, the bill would also, until July 31, 2018, require the governing board or body of a local educational agency, as defined, and the State Department of Education on behalf of state special schools, to grant a diploma of graduation from high school to any pupil who completed grade 12 in the 2003–04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination.

Unlike SB 725, SB 172 is not considered an urgency statute, and once signed by the Governor, would not take effect until January, 2016. It is the contention of the adult education community that the adverse circumstances necessitating the immediate action to award diplomas to students from the graduating Class of 2015 are no different for all

other adult education students, and thus all students who meet graduation eligibility as specified in both bills should be treated the same, effective immediately.

II. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE RESOLUTION

The Board is requested to approve Resolution 07-2015-16 awarding high school diplomas to all students in the Piedmont Adult School Adult Education program who have satisfactorily met all graduation requirements, consistent with the passage of Senate Bill 725 and 172.