



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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MEMORANDUM

To: Parish/City School Superintendents
Diocesan School District Superintendents
Nonpublic High School Principals

From: Paul G. Pastorek
State Superintendent of Education

Keith Guice, President
State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: September 14, 2009

Subject: Early High School Graduation

At its June 22, 2009 meeting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), directed us to send a letter to Parish/City School Superintendents, Diocesan School Superintendents, and Nonpublic High School principals regarding early high school graduation requirements.

At the request of BESE, we are encouraging districts and schools to allow students who have completed all coursework to graduate early if the students and their parents or guardians request early graduation. We are encouraging districts to drop any policies that would prevent students from graduating in three or 3½ years.

In addition, we are encouraging districts to allow students to pursue the Early College Option, if the students and their parents or guardians choose this as the best option. The policy requirements for Early College Admissions can be found in §2329 of *Bulletin 741: Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or need further assistance, please contact Dr. Susannah Craig by e-mail at susannah.craig@la.gov or by phone at 225-342-1152.

PGP/KG/sfc

c: Ollie S. Tyler, Deputy Superintendent
Scott M. Norton, Ph.D. Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Beben, Division Director