November 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Phasing Out the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)

On November 14, 2013, the Alabama State Board of Education will vote on a resolution that will modify the diploma requirements for the first-time ninth graders of 2010-2011. If passed, the amendment will mean that these students will **NOT** be required to pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) as a graduation requirement; however, any student in the cohort whose transcript reflects a “not attempted” or failed score in one or more subject areas will have the option to continue to take the appropriate tests(s).

In the interim, all scheduled functions in place for the December administration of the AHSGE should be followed. We will notify you regarding any changes to these functions following the November 14 vote of the State Board of Education. If this resolution is passed, first-time ninth graders of 2009-2010 will be the last cohort required to pass the AHSGE as a diploma requirement. For as long as the state offers the AHSGE, school systems will continue to test students in the 2009-2010 cohort and the eligible Grade 13 and Grade 14 students in earlier cohorts who need the AHSGE in order to meet their diploma requirements.

Since the Alabama High School Graduation Exam Requirement brochure was given to the first-time ninth graders of 2010-2011 informing them that they would be required to pass the AHSGE in order to receive a diploma, we will provide you with an amended notification to be given to these students and their parents informing them of these changes in the event that the amendment passes. If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Mrs. Rebecca Mims, Student Assessment, at 334-242-8038 or rmims@alsde.edu.

TRB/RWM/MAH
cc: System Test Coordinators
    High School Principals
FY14-2014