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November 30, 2018

**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #18-19**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Steve Canavero, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Civics Test for High School Graduation

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Senate Bill 322, passed in the 79<sup>th</sup> Nevada Legislative Session (2017), states that a pupil in any public high school must take an examination as a condition for graduation containing a number of questions, determined by the district, which are identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test adopted by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security effective July 1, 2019.

Pursuant to NRS 389.009, districts and charter schools shall determine the following:

- Determine the course in which the examination will be administered;
- Establish the number of questions which will be included on the exam, but not less than 50;
- Determine the desired score on the exam and the manner in which the results of the exam will affect the grade of the pupil in the course in which the exam is administered; and
- Not later than August 31 of each year, aggregate the results of the exam and report the aggregated results to the board of trustees of the school district.

Pupils may receive a waiver from the exam if:

- The pupil is a pupil with a disability and the waiver is in accordance with his or her individualized education program; or
- The pupil is identified as an English learner and the public high school is unable to offer the exam in the language which would provide accurate results; or
- The principal or administrator of the public high school determines that the pupil has completed all other academic requirements to receive a certificate or diploma of graduation and has shown good cause for a waiver.
- The principal shall not grant a waiver to more than ten percent of each graduation class of the public high school.

References to this memorandum:

- Senate Bill 322- [Senate Bill 322](#)

Please submit any questions to Jaynie Malorni, Programs Professional for Social Studies, Office of Standards and Instructional Support - [jmalorni@doe.nv.gov](mailto:jmalorni@doe.nv.gov) | 702.486.8398