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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Kevin Lancaster

DATE: February 6th, 2017

SUBJ: Agenda Items – Policy for Approval

Attached you will find the following Policy Codes for your approval.

- Policy Code 3460 Graduation Requirements

I will be available to answer any questions you may have.

**B. HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END OF COURSE TESTING**

High school students must take all required end-of-course (EOC) tests, NC Final Exams, and Career and Technical Education State Assessments (CTE Post-Assessments) required by the State Board of Education and pursuant to policy 3410, Testing and Assessment Program.

**C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation:

**1. Honor Graduates**

Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

**2. Students with Disabilities**

Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

**3 Children of Military Families**

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the board adopts the following policy provisions for students covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

**a. Waiver Requirements**

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

**b. Testing Requirements for Graduation**

The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

c. Transfers During Senior Year

If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

4. Early Graduation

Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on the basis of criteria approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent.

5. Graduation Certificate

Graduation certificates will be awarded to students in compliance with the policies of the State Board of Education.

6. Diploma Endorsements

Students have the opportunity to earn one or more of the following diploma endorsements identifying a particular area of focused study; (1) Career Endorsement, (2) College Endorsement (two options), and/or (3) North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement and/or (4) a Global Languages Endorsement. No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education Policies GCS-C-003, GCS-L-007, GCS-M-001, GCS-N-004, -010

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and Assessment Program (policy 3410), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

Adopted: March 6, 2000

Amended: June 4, 2007

Updated: June 1, 2009

Updated: December 7, 2009

Updated: May 3, 2010

Updated: November 3, 2010

Updated: September 14, 2011

Updated: January 14, 2013

Updated: June 3, 2013

Updated: June 3, 2014

Updated: October 6, 2014

Updated: June 1, 2015

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

— — *Policy Code:*  
**3460**

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Updated: December 7, 2015

Updated: November 7, 2016

Updated: January 9, 2017