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**FROM:** Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jhone M. Ebert".

**DATE:** July 27, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Addendum to Guidance Memo 20-06, SB 147 – Full/Partial Credit for Foster Care and Homeless Youth

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**Proper Identification of Eligible Students**

Section 1 of SB 147 requires each public school to identify the status of their students, specifically whether a student is a homeless pupil, unaccompanied pupil, or pupil who lives in foster care. When such a pupil is identified, Section 1 requires the public school to review and adjust the pupil's academic plan as appropriate to maximize accrual of credits and progress towards graduation. Section 1 also requires each public school to develop a procedure to identify a homeless pupil, unaccompanied pupil, or pupil who lives in foster care; and to review the academic plan for each such pupil and adjust the plan as appropriate to maximize the accrual of credits by the pupil and the progress of the pupil towards graduation.

**Partial Credit**

SB 147, Section 4.2 requires the board of trustees of each school district and the sponsor of each charter school that enrolls pupils at the high school grade level to develop and carry out procedures both to award and accept full or partial credit for coursework that is satisfactorily completed by a homeless pupil, unaccompanied pupil, or a pupil that lives in foster care regardless of time, place, or pace at which the pupil progressed or the number of hours of classroom instruction the pupil received. Section 4.1 specifies that such pupils may receive full or partial credit for a specific course of study without satisfying any attendance requirement for the course or requirement for hours of classroom instruction. Pupils who receive partial credits must also be allowed to appropriately combine those credits, including – without limitation – for the purposes of the total number of credits required for graduation from high school or the minimum number of units of credit required in a core academic subject pursuant to NRS 389.018.

**Process for Determining Credits or Course Completion**

SB 147, Section 4 states that the following may be considered evidence of satisfactorily completed coursework or used to determine the amount of partial credit to be awarded:

- Demonstration of competency by a pupil;
- Performance by a pupil on an examination;
- Successful completion of a program of independent study, or any part of such a program, by a pupil;
- Full or partial credit for coursework completed by a pupil at an accredited public or private

- school located within or outside of the State that is sought to be transferred;
- Full or partial credit for coursework completed by a pupil at a summer school conducted by an accredited public or private school or institution of higher learning located within or outside of the State that is sought to be transferred;
- Completion by a pupil of a correspondence or distance education course provided by a high school which is nationally accredited or by an entity which appears on the list published by the Nevada Department of Education pursuant to NRS 388.834;
- Completion of an apprenticeship program by a pupil;
- Completion of a program by a pupil at a trade or vocational school which is accredited;
- Work experience of a pupil;
- Community service performed by a pupil; and
- Any other evidence or method which is determined to be appropriate by the board of trustees of a school district or sponsor of a charter school, as applicable, and approved by the Department.

School districts and charter schools have discretion in determining how they award partial credit in alignment with Section 4. We encourage school districts and charter schools to consider the full spectrum of evidence of coursework completion to remove barriers to credit accrual and on-time graduation for homeless pupils and pupils living in foster care.

As school districts and charter school sponsors shift their educational programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they must ensure equitable access for homeless pupils, unaccompanied pupils, and pupils who live in foster care. SB 147's requirements must function in coordination with the procedures school districts and charter school sponsors are developing to provide instruction and award credits to these students.

### **Graduation Requirements**

SB 147, Section 5 requires that a school district or sponsor of a charter school award the appropriate high school diploma to a homeless pupil, unaccompanied pupil, or pupil who lives in foster care who:

- (a) Transfers to a public school operated by the school district or sponsor while the pupil is enrolled in grade 11 or grade 12; and
- (b) Satisfies the requirements prescribed by the State Board to receive a high school diploma, regardless of whether the pupil satisfies any requirement imposed by the school district or sponsor of a charter school.

Additionally, if a homeless pupil, unaccompanied pupil, or pupil who lives in foster care who transfers to a public school while the pupil is enrolled in grade 11 or grade 12 is not able to receive a high school diploma within 5 years from the date on which the pupil enrolled in grade 9, the school district/sponsor of the charter school, the pupil, and the pupil's parent or legal guardian, if applicable, shall mutually agree on a modified course of study for the pupil that will assist the pupil in satisfying the requirements for a standard high school diploma, adjusted diploma, alternative diploma or an adult standard diploma as quickly as possible.