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TO: State Board Members
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: August 25, 2008
SUBJECT: Standard Setting for Mod-HSA

In order to further prepare you for tomorrow's discussion on the recommended standards for the Modified High School Assessments (Mod-HSA), I am providing this new information in addition to that which was included in your Board packet. The standard setting process was completed on Friday August 22, 2008. The process included a significant number of teachers with experience in special education as well as the content assessed on each test. Local school system Superintendents, Directors of Special Education, Local Accountability Coordinators, parents, advocates for students with disabilities, and the business community were also involved. The Mod-HSA cut scores recommended for use in calculating AYP for schools beginning in 2009 are as follows:

	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra	412	450
English	396	429
Biology	400	452

These are the same cut scores that are used to determine pass/fail status on the Mod-HSA as well as the regular High School Assessments. It is important to remember that the Mod-HSA assesses the same content as the HSA. The scale scores range from 240 to 650. The modified assessments were purposely designed to be reported on the same scale as the regular HSA tests, even though the test items are less complex and more accessible for a student with disabilities. Participants in the standard setting process were committed to the premise that schools be held to the same accountability standard that the individual students are held to for their graduation requirements. They were also convinced that the standards for students with disabilities should be the same as those of regular education students.

I look forward to our discussion of the proposed standards on Tuesday.