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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed. D. *BJS/clc*
DATE: April 24, 2012
SUBJECT: Government High School Assessment

PURPOSE:

To update the State Board on the administration of the Government High School Assessment (HSA).

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Due to budget cuts, the Government HSA was eliminated from the FY12 budget. The last administration of the exam was in the 2010-2011 school year and the graduating class of 2011 was the last class to need the Government HSA for graduation.

In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that reinstated the Government HSA. It is proposed that the assessment be administered again in the 2013-2014 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The last administration of the Government HSA was in Spring 2011. The last graduating class that was required to take and pass the Government HSA was the graduating class of 2011. Classes graduating in 2012 through 2016 will use combined score options of 1208 if taking three HSAs or combined score of 1602 for four HSAs. It is proposed that the administration of the Government HSA begin again in 2013-2014. COMAR includes the government test as a graduation requirement; therefore, with the reinstatement of the exam, the State Board will review a proposal that determines when it will again be a graduation requirement and for which entering ninth grade class. Government could again be a graduation requirement starting with the incoming 9th grade class of 2013-2014 with the approval of the State Board.

ACTION:

For board consideration and action.

BJS:mlg