

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION  
AND  
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** is made this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2009, between the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (“DLLR”) and the Maryland State Board of Education (“Board”).

**RECITALS**

Whereas, the Maryland General Assembly has transferred certain responsibilities for administering the Adult Education and Literacy programs from the Board and the Maryland State Department of Education to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation effective July 1, 2009;

Whereas, the Maryland General Assembly has by statute directed DLLR and the Board to work together on certain aspects of these programs;

Whereas, Section 11-807 of the Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires that the Secretary of DLLR consult with the Board in drafting regulations that govern the National Adult External High School Program (EDP), and requires the Board to award diplomas to the individuals meeting the requirements of Subtitle 8 of Title 11;

Whereas, Section 11-808 of the Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires that the regulations governing the award of high school diplomas through examination (GED) be adopted jointly by the Secretary of DLLR and the Board;

Whereas, the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is an international proprietary assessment of the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) and is administered in Maryland under a state license;

Whereas, the General Education Development (GED) Tests are an international proprietary assessment of the GED Testing Service (GEDTS) of the American Council on Education (ACE) and administered in Maryland under a state license;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Maryland High School Diploma by assessment, awarded through the GED Tests and the National EDP program will bear the signatures of the State Board President and the Secretary of DLLR.

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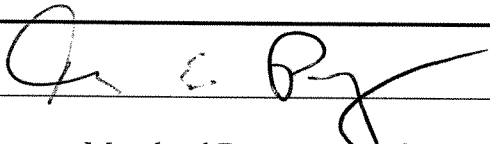
2. DLLR shall ensure that the Board has the opportunity to participate in the development of any proposed changes to legislation or regulation concerning the GED or EDP programs by providing the Board with draft language for the change at least two months in advance of its submission in order to ensure adequate time for joint consultation and consideration.
3. The Board will consider and vote on matters relating to the programs in a manner and time sequence that will not unduly delay their efficient operations.
4. DLLR and the State Board shall jointly determine minimum test scores and any other necessary qualifications for earning the high school diploma by assessment.
5. DLLR will work with the State Board and its designee at the Maryland State Department of Education to outline procedures for the joint awarding and signing of diplomas.
6. DLLR agrees to ensure the integrity of the Maryland High School Diploma by complying with the attached Assurances for Quality Control.
7. DLLR shall present a report on the oversight and implementation of the EDP and GED programs at a State Board meeting, at least once yearly.
8. The DLLR shall submit a written annual report to the Maryland State Board of Education including the results of the NEDP and GED testing program, as well as any changes to the quality control processes and procedures. The report shall include diplomas awarded, GED waiver requests granted, the results of any monitoring visits to GED testing or to EDP sites, professional development provided to state and local EDP staff, GED Chief Examiners, or state GED staff. The report shall also disclose any GED Test center irregularities, GED test compromises or the closing a GED Testing Center when a violation of test security procedures occurs. The first report shall be submitted on or before September 30, 2010.

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IN WITNESS HERETO, the parties have executed this Memorandum by their duly authorized officials

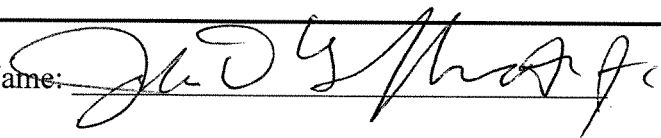
**For Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation**

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Name:   
Title: Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation  
Date: 6/23/09

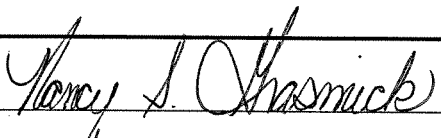
**For Maryland State Board of Education**

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Name:   
Title: President, Maryland State Board of Education  
Date: 6/23/2009

**For Maryland State Department of Education**

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Name:   
Title: State Superintendent of Schools  
Date: 6/23/09