



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3801

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900**

Bureau of Special Education FY'12 Memo #4

Date: August 9, 2011

To: Superintendents
Special Education Directors
Headmaster, Director, or Principal of Non-Public Schools and Private Special Education Schools

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Instruction
Bureau of Special Education
Bureau of School Approval & Facility Management

Re: Award of High School Diplomas by Private Providers

The following guidance is provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, in conjunction with the Bureau of School Approval & Facility Management, regarding the award of high school diplomas:

1. An approved non-public school, including those also approved as private providers of special education programs, that offers high school level curriculum through grade 12, or its equivalent, is entitled to award a high school diploma.
2. The governing body of the school must establish requirements for a high school diploma that meet applicable state laws and administrative rules.
3. A high school diploma issued by an approved non-public school including those approved as private providers of special education programs, shall fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of RSA 193:1(f).
4. As a part of the approval process, the NHDOE/BSE conducts a review of policies and procedures including required program areas and credits required for graduation. The diploma-granting school's policy for issuing diplomas will also be reviewed during the initial approval process and subsequent reviews.

If you have any questions regarding the issuing of diplomas, please contact Santina Thibedeau at the Bureau of Special Education, 271-6693, or Ed Murdough at the Bureau of School Approval & Facility Management, 271-2037.

BSE:BJR