



**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1  
Dover, Delaware 19901  
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**The Honorable John Carney**  
Governor

**John A. McNeal**  
Director

November 30, 2018

Ms. Emily Cunningham  
Department of Education  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: 22 DE Reg. 335 [DDOE Proposed Regulation - Related to Graduation Requirements and Diplomas (November 1, 2018)].**

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) proposed regulation to amend 14 DE Administrative Code 505 High School Graduation Requirements and Diplomas. The proposed regulation was published as 22 DE Reg. 337 in the November 1, 2018 issue of the Register of Regulations. SCPD has the following observations.

House Substitute 1 to House Bill 287 eliminated the Certificate of Performance that was previously awarded to students with disabilities who satisfied their Individualized Education Program ("IEP") requirements, but did not meet the criteria to be issued a high school diploma. Now these students will be eligible for high school diplomas called the State of Delaware- Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards. House Bill 15 as amended by Senate Amendment 1 allows high school students to count computer science classes towards the mathematics graduation credit requirement. House Bill 230 broadened the types of veterans that may be eligible for high school diplomas.

The proposed amendment to 14 DE Admin. Code 505 adds definitions that would allow students to use computer science coursework to meet the mathematics credit requirement for high school graduation, as required by the amended House Bill 15. The definition of veteran is updated to comply with HB 230.

The proposed amendment also outlines high school diploma credit requirements for students beginning with the graduating class of 2019. The proposed amendment incorporates the State of Delaware- Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards.

Finally, the proposed amendment eliminates the Student Success Plans (“SSP”) section. According to the synopsis, a new regulation on SSPs will be issued “in the near future.” SSPs are developed with every student beginning in the eighth grade, and outline a student’s post-high school goals along with the steps necessary to help the student achieve those goals. There does not appear to be a statute that addresses SSPs.

The SCPD is endorsing the proposed amendment, while seeking clarification on how SSPs will work until a new regulation is created.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact the SCPD if you have any questions regarding our observations and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Fina, Ed.D.  
Chairperson - State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: The Honorable Susan Bunting  
Mary Ann Mieczkowski  
Chris Kenton, Executive Director - Professional Standards Board  
Laura Makransky, Esq. - Department of Justice  
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