

**From:** Bishop, Cathy  
**Sent time:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:33:34 PM  
**To:** MaryLaura@excelined.org  
**Cc:** Polland, Michele; Verra-Tirado, Monica  
**Subject:** your email today

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Hi Mary Laura,

Michele forwarded your email regarding the special diploma rule to me.

We actually have not received any comment since the posting on February 24th in advance of the March Board meeting. A couple of months ago, we received one comment based on the what was posted for the rule development workshop held in August.

We started work on this in 2008. Then put that work on hold and returned to it in January 2011 by bringing together a work group in the context of a rule development workshop. Based on their work, we developed a draft and had another workshop via phone in late August. There were very few comments on that call in August.

The current rule is extremely out-of-date and much of the language is obsolete. So essentially, as things stand now, the requirements for graduation with a special diploma are up to each district to determine. As a result, there is variability across the state. We currently have provision for the two options. While option 2 is not required right now, all but 4 or 5 districts provide for option 2.

So, the primary change with the proposed rule is that we have established minimum course credit requirements for both option 1 and 2 and we will require that district provide for both options.

Let me know if you have additional questions.

Also, by way of email, I would like to introduce Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado who is our new Bureau Chief. Monica was most recently the ESE director in Pasco; we are very happy to have her with us.

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Bishop*

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