

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TASK FORCE
FROM: J. CIRASUOLO
RE: MATERIALS FOR MEETING ON 1/12/16
DATE: 1/6/16

Under separate cover, you are receiving an agenda for the Task Force meeting on 1/12/16, a preliminary first draft of the Task Force's final report and the response of Mary Anne Butler to that portion of the draft that embodies recommendations for graduation requirement revisions that are recommended for action by the Legislature in 2016.

In the preliminary first draft, I tried to do the following:

- Embody the notion that the Report will contain two sets of recommendations, one for a process that would lead to a major transformation of the requirements in approximately two years and the other for a recommended revision of the requirements to be accomplished this year for the Class of 2021.
- Include in the recommendation for a major transformation of the requirements the substance of the Task Force's discussions as to why the present requirements need transformation.
- So structure the recommendation for revisions to be made in 2016 that if enacted, they would embody a bit of the flexibility that would be needed in transformed requirements and they would address some of the problems that members of the Task Force identified with the present requirements themselves.

Given the key roles that the Commissioner of Education and the CSDE's Chief Academic Officer play in any state public education policy consideration, I sent the draft of the 2016 revision recommendations to the each of them after I drafted the recommendations. The Commissioner's response was:

- Support for requiring 25 credits for graduation
- Concerns about reducing the civics requirement
- Support for eliminating end of course exams

The Chief Academic Officer's response was relatively detailed and that is why you are receiving that response under separate cover.

I propose that at the Task Force meeting on 1/12/16, we use the preliminary draft report as the basis for our discussion and that we take the time to go over it line by line, if we have to, to make sure that what we finally do report does reflect the consensus of the members of the Task Force.

If you cannot attend the meeting of the Task Force on 1/12/16 and would like to send me your reaction to the preliminary draft report, I will make sure that all member of the Force receive whatever it is that you send me.

Thank you for your continuing good work on the Task Force.