

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - PROPOSED GRADUATION REGULATIONS

On November 28, 2014, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) published proposed graduation regulations in the [*D.C. Register*](#). The original proposed regulations did the following:

- Changed the term “Carnegie unit” to “credit” in Title 5-E, Section 2100 (entitled “Promotion”) – this is the only proposed change to the Promotion section. The Promotion section remains in Title 5-E.
- Moved the sections on graduation from Title 5-E to Title 5-A.
- Added credit course flexibility by providing four pathways for a student to obtain graduation credit: 1) seat time option; 2) competency-based learning; 3) credit advancement; and 4) credit recovery.
- Created a Superintendent’s diploma for students not associated with a local education agency (LEA) who have successfully passed the GED[®] or NEDP, home-school students, or students attending a state-overseen school.
- Added a definitions section

After receiving several formal and informal public comment from various stakeholders, OSSE is putting forth revisions to the proposed graduation regulations, which will be published in the December 19, 2014 *D.C. Register*, for a second round of public comment. The key updates to the proposed graduation regulations include:

- Striking home-schooling, private schools, independent schools, and private instruction from Title 5-A Section 2200.2 and from the definition of “educational institution.”
- Repealing the sections on the graduation status of students (Title 5-E, Section 2204), class fees (Title 5-E, Section 2207), and class gifts (Title 5-E, Section 2208) from the regulations. Graduation exercises and diplomas are split into two separate sections, with the section on graduation exercises also being repealed.
- Indicating that OSSE may convene a panel of content experts and stakeholders to review applications submitted by an LEA (or equivalent) for a competency-based learning course or course equivalent. OSSE will issue future guidance on the composition of this panel and provide a transparent description on the criteria for reviewing the applications.
- Eliminating the requirement that students develop a graduation plan beginning in the 9th grade.
- Clarifying that students who have taken and successfully completed the GED[®] or NEDP after on or after January 1, 2014 are eligible for a Superintendent’s diploma.
- Altering the definition of “head of educational institution” by removing the examples originally provided in the definition.

Because the proposed graduation regulations will be out for public comment for twenty days (20) days by December 19th, the revised proposed graduation regulations being published on December 19th will have a comment period of ten (10) days, for an overall total of thirty (30) days. The last day to submit comments during the second round of proposed comments will be December 29, 2014. Should you have questions about the proposed regulations, please contact Christina Setlow, Director of Policy, Legislative, and Intergovernmental Affairs at christina.setlow@dc.gov.