

# **Summary / Update**

## **Statewide Stakeholder Workgroup**

### **Exploring Graduation Pathways for all Students in South Carolina**

**Structure of the Workgroup:** Workgroup is facilitated by a national expert in the area. Four sessions are scheduled with the facilitator for this workgroup. (Diploma Pathways)

**Members of the Workgroup:** State Department of Education representatives from various departments including accountability, certification, instructional services, special education, assessment, personalization; 1 high school counselor, 4 principals, 2 superintendents, 1 board member.

**Purpose:** Recommend statutory, regulatory, and guidance changes to diploma pathways so that these pathways better facilitate graduation for all SC students.

**Documents examined** for the work have included

- Profile of the South Carolina Graduate
- Section 59-39-100 – Issuance of diplomas by accredited high schools: units required
- Defined Program, Grades 9-12 Graduation Requirements
- Every Student Succeeds ACT (ESSA) & FAQ's
- Survey results that polled states on their high school diploma options. (42 responded)

**Essential Questions** - One diploma with multiple endorsements or Multiple diplomas with multiple endorsements?

#### **Meeting 1:**

- ✓ Review and analysis of documents with discussion
- ✓ Common understanding among group members of terms, documents, accountability system, etc.
- ✓ Clarifying questions and discussions
  - Profile of SC Graduate – review of its creation
  - Implications for Teacher Certification
  - Roles of businesses with the hiring of students and diploma requirements
  - Processes for making recommendations for Regulations and Statutes
  - Relationship between the work of this group and the accountability system for meeting the ESSA goal of 90% of students graduating in 4 years being College and Career Ready by 2030
- ✓ Consensus to invite representatives from various states with different diploma options to speak to the workgroup about their diploma choices at our next meeting

#### **Meeting 2:**

- Presentations from North Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana with questions for each
- Workgroup discussions about their issues and programs
- Consensus of one diploma with multiple pathways.

**Plans for next meeting:** Discussions of recommendations on what regulatory changes/statutory changes may be needed, and explore what this might look like for a variety of different students.