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**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
Principals

**FROM:** Lyonel B. Tracy  
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**DATE:** September 6, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Mandatory Education

This past legislative session, bills in both the House and Senate were enacted which amended RSA 193:1 regarding school attendance by pupils. At their core, the bills raised the mandatory education age from 16 to 18 and repealed the statutory authority of students between the ages of 16 and 18 to request outright termination of their education. Although an inadvertent glitch moved the effective date for the increase in the mandatory age to September 15, 2007, the change will still allow students between 16 and 18 to request termination of their education under the existing procedures until July 1, 2009.

The Department understands that this situation may cause some confusion for local school districts. However, it is the Department's position that until July 1, 2009, the effective date of the bulk of the amendments to RSA 193:1, students between the ages of 16 and 18 may continue to request termination of their education under the authority of RSA 193:1, IV. The Department also contends that until July 1, 2009 school districts may proceed with those requests as they have done in the past and grant the requests when the requirements of subsection IV are satisfied. Local school districts should also be aware of their ability pursuant to RSA 193:5 to make a recommendation to the Commissioner of the Department of Education that a child be exempted from school attendance, if a given situation warrants such action.

The Department hopes this clarifies any confusion regarding this matter.