

**TO:** All

**FROM:** Dr. Brian Merritt

**SUBJECT:** Reducing Barriers in College & Career Readiness

**DATE:** September 29, 2023

---

Since 2014, NCCCS has contracted with the vendor Diploma Sender to offer document fulfillment services for official HiSet, GED, and Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency diplomas and transcripts. When this service was initiated, the System Office communicated the following “policy” to the vendor: *In North Carolina you can take the test in English or Spanish; however, you cannot combine two different languages to earn your credential.*

We researched and found that this “policy” is not in State Board Code, and we are unable to locate a numbered memo that addresses it. It turns out that this is, indeed, a practice that has created barriers for almost a decade. Out of the 20 states served by Diploma Sender, North Carolina was the only state that stipulated languages cannot be combined to earn a credential.

This practice has now been rescinded to better serve our bilingual students in College and Career Readiness. **Moving forward, students will be allowed to combine the results from multiple languages to achieve a passing status on high school equivalency credentials.**

With this change, we anticipate **approximately 120 students statewide to immediately receive their diplomas.**

Additionally, Diploma Sender will be providing NCCCS with a list of students statewide who have taken tests in multiple languages since 2014. We anticipate this list will include around 700-800 students. **Once we have the spreadsheet, we will sort and send by college for your recruiting and outreach purposes.** Kudos to our CCR/Title II Team for being solution-focused!