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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Former students may petition for diplomas

**HAMLET** (November 4, 2009) – School districts across the state are gearing up to grant diplomas to a number of students. On July 1, 2009, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 202/S.L. 2009-451, ending the graduation requirements for the North Carolina Competency and Computer Skills Tests. The Bill has a retroactive effect, meaning that all students who were enrolled in a graduating class from 1981 through 2009 and met all State and local board requirements for a diploma except for passing the competency test(s) and or computer skills test(s), may now petition their high school for a diploma. Those affected in Richmond County should make contact with Richmond Senior High School.

Principal Cory Satterfield hopes that all who are eligible will take advantage of the opportunity.

“We’re excited that these former students will be able to get their diplomas.” Satterfield said. “We hope that everyone affected will contact us soon.”

Former RSHS students affected by the competency transition should contact Mary Alice DeBerry at Richmond Senior High School on Mondays when school is in session, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Diploma candidates will need a copy of their high school transcript that shows that the student earned credit in all courses required for graduation at the time that his or her diploma was withheld.

Those seeking diplomas must also present proof of identity at the time of their visit. Be sure to present a valid picture ID (such as your driver’s license), your Social Security number, and your current address and contact information.



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School personnel will check to ensure that students have earned credit in all courses required for graduation at the time that their diplomas were withheld because of a testing deficiency. Following review, students will be contacted to confirm whether or not they qualify for a diploma or if the petition has been denied. Please allow up to 30 days to process your request.

A fee will be associated with the release of the student diplomas. More information on the fees will be sent to students directly.

Petitions for diplomas will only be honored for a five year period that began on July 1, 2009 and will continue through July 1, 2014.

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