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MEMORANDUM

TO: County Superintendents
County Attendance Directors

FROM: Office of Legal Services
West Virginia Department of Education

RE: 2019-2020 Testing Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and Home School Students

DATE: March 26, 2020

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) understands that the precautionary actions being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 affect not only the operation of public schools, but also nonpublic schools and home schools. In light of the numerous inquiries received by the WVDE in response to testing requirements for nonpublic and home school students for the 2019-2020 school year, the WVDE is issuing the following guidance:

- The WVDE will not revoke the exemption status of any nonpublic school operating under an exemption to the compulsory public school attendance requirements set forth in W.Va. Code §18-8-1 as a result of a nonpublic school not submitting annual standardize achievement test results for the 2019-2020 school year. Nonpublic schools will be expected to resume adherence to statutory standardized testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The WVDE strongly encourages districts not revoke the exemption status of any home school student that presently has an exemption to the compulsory public school attendance requirements set forth in W.Va. Code §18-8-1 as a result of the home school student school's inability to obtain and take a standardize achievement test as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency. This applies to home school students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11. The WVDE further strongly encourages districts to advise home school students will be expected to submit testing results no later than December 31, 2020, or some later definitive date as established by the district.