

February 5, 1999

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Basic Skills Directors

**FROM:** Randy Whitfield

**SUBJECT:** Drivers License/Dropout Prevention Law Information

During the Fall Semester, both public schools and community colleges decided to “grandfather” many students who would have been adversely affected by the Drivers License/Dropout Prevention Law by not requiring progress for the last six months or by issuing eligibility certificates even though students had not been in attendance for six months. January, however, started a new year and a strict adherence to policies. Below you will find a reminder of our policy on the six month’s waiting period and new information about policies and the Dropout Prevention Users’ Guide.

Community colleges may not issue a Driver’s Eligibility certificate to minors unless they have been enrolled for six months, have been attending for sixty hours per month, and have been making progress. (Exception: Minors who received their Driver’s Permit or License before December 1, 1997, are not affected by this law.

- It is extremely important that you give students you plan to decertify notification not only about the process, but also the exact date you plan to decertify them. The Division of Motor Vehicles revokes such students’ licenses/permits at 12:01 a.m. after you enter the decertification information. However, the DMV letter is not mailed to the student until the next business day so it may not reach them for several days after actual license/permit revocation. If students do not realize the exact date they are to be decertified, they risk getting a ticket for driving without a license.
- The Dropout Prevention Users’ Guide has been updated and now codifies error messages. The new guide lists error messages and explains what they mean. The new guide may be accessed through the community college system’s web page, [www.ncccs.cc.nc.us](http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us), under "Documentation."

With the increase of activity for this law, it is understandable that there will be many questions. Remember that the community college system only handles issues concerning this law for students who are enrolled in community colleges. Public/non-public students who have questions should be referred to local or state public/non-public schools.

Please call me at 919/733-7051, ext. 721 if you have any questions.

pc: Presidents

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