TO: Principals and High School Counselors  
FROM: Division of Curriculum and Instruction  
DATE: November 25, 2009  
RE: Criteria for Diplomas Using the Exception Rule

The criteria for special education students pursuing either the Alabama High School Diploma or the Alabama High School Diploma with Credit Based Endorsement using the exception rule includes “hold a cumulative [C] grade average for all coursework”. The cumulative [C] grade average can be either 2.0 or 70 average.

1. Completion of all course credits for the Alabama High School Diploma or requirements for the Alabama Occupational Diploma
2. Documentation of the disability in the area of the one subject area test of the AHSGE that was not passed (Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services)
3. Participation in remediation activities during high school
4. Met attendance requirements of the local school system
5. Hold a cumulative “C” (2.0 or 70 average) grade average for all coursework (Grades 9-12)

Because the 70 average was not considered in the past, please review records for students with disabilities who previously applied for a diploma using the exception rule to ensure that no student with a 70 average was denied a diploma.

If there are further questions, please call Joyce Woodburn or Roxanna Carpenter.