



PRESS RELEASE: MOE Clarifies, No Change to Payment for Senior High Exam

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MONROVIA, Liberia — The Ministry of Education wishes to clarify that there has been no change in who pays for the senior high exam.

The Ministry of Education has previously only subsidized the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Examination (LJHSCE) fees, and it continues to do so. However, the cost of the Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination (LSHSCE) had always been undertaken by families of students. Now that the LSHSCE is being replaced by the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), which is a much more comprehensive exam carried out over five weeks rather than five days, families will continue to be responsible for the majority of the cost.

While the Ministry would like to be in a position to waive all fees for senior high school students sitting the exam, its significant budget constraints mean that unfortunately it is not possible for it to do so at this time.

The Ministry welcomes any organization that wants to assist in relieving the burden of WASSCE fees from students' families. The correct process for doing so is to coordinate with the West African Examination Council (WAEC), which administers the exam. To date, the Ministry is not aware of an agreement between any entity and the WAEC to do so.

About the Senior Certificate Exams

The Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination (LSHSCE) was introduced in 1988 as a means of preparing Liberia to join the other four West African Examinations Council (WAEC) countries in 1996 to administer a common examination, the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

Unfortunately, Liberia could not participate in WASSCE in 1996 due to the civil war. The West African Examinations Council, the regional governing body for the test, allowed each country to commence the examination when ready. In 2013, Liberia joined the other four countries in the region taking WASSCE, but requested that the exam be conducted on a pilot basis for three years since most schools lacked laboratory facilities. The pilot was extended to four years due to the



Ebola epidemic. The 2017 exam was the last pilot conducted, after which the LSHSCE was phased out. Liberian students will start taking the WASSCE in April 2018 and the test will last for five weeks.

As of 2018, WASSCE will be the only external examination that will determine senior high students' graduation or admission to universities. In a few weeks, universities in Liberia, the Commission on Higher Education, the Ministry of Education, and WAEC Liberia will have series of meetings to determine benchmarks for admission to the universities.

More information on the WASSCE test, including the syllabus, can be found on WAEC Liberia's website: <http://www.liberiawaec.org>

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