



NYS Graduation Requirements

Statewide Update on Current Requirements ~ June 5, 2025





Thank you, NYS College Admissions Counseling

A

Agenda

- Updates
- Credit Requirements
- Assessment Requirements
 - Multiple (+1) pathways
 - Appeals, Safety Nets, Superintendent Determination
- Endorsements and Seals
- Transfer Students
- Resources



A blue-tinted background image featuring silhouettes of graduates celebrating. Several graduation caps are shown in mid-air, having been tossed by a group of people whose silhouettes are visible at the bottom. Some individuals are holding diplomas. The scene is set against a light blue sky.

UPDATES

Superintendent Determination Form

- Revised form
- Clarifies:
 - Completion of the form
 - Additional documentation is not required





Major Life Event

Any severe illness, severe medical condition, or life-altering incident that significantly impacts or prevents a student's participation in a required diploma assessment

Diploma Assessment Requirements

- Regents Exams
- NYSED-Approved Alternatives
- NYSED-Approved Pathway Assessments
- *Checkpoint Exams in World Languages*



Eligibility



The student was enrolled in a course of study or makeup program leading to a required diploma assessment.



The student met or exceeded the learning outcomes for the course of study.



A major life event significantly impacted or prevented the student from participating in the required diploma assessment.

Process

1. Request
2. Consent
3. Review
4. Notification of Decision
5. Retention of Documentation



MLE Resources

- Memo
- Sample Form
- Frequently Asked Questions



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

SAMPLE FORM

EXEMPTION FROM DIPLOMA ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR LIFE EVENT

The original completed form, signed by the superintendent¹, must be retained in the student's permanent record. One copy of the completed form must be provided to the student's parent or person in parental relation, or if the student is over age 18 or an emancipated minor, to the student. Forms and documentation should NOT be sent to the New York State Education Department.

Student Information

Student Name:	NYSSIS (NYS Student Identification System) #:
School District/Charter School/Registered Nonpublic High School:	BEDS Code:
Individual Seeking Exemption for the Student:	Contact Number/Email for Individual Seeking Exemption for the Student:
Date Form Completed:	Anticipated Diploma Conferral Date:

Impacted Diploma Assessment Requirement(s)

List the diploma assessment requirement(s) impacted by the major life event below:

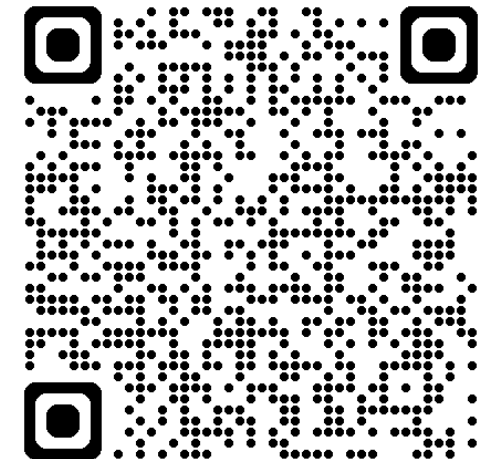
Diploma Assessment(s)

Eligibility Conditions

I hereby certify that the student was enrolled in a required diploma assessment (i.e., Regents Examination, or NYSED-Approved Pathways Program).

A. <input type="checkbox"/>	The student met or exceeded the required diploma assessment.
B. <input type="checkbox"/>	A major life event has significantly impacted the student's ability to complete the required diploma assessment. At the discretion of the superintendent, the student is exempted from the required diploma assessment.

¹ Superintendent of schools (or, as applicable, school or registered non-public school)



Question from You

MLE Exemptions



Will the Department provide additional examples of major life events?

While there are some examples provided in our guidance, the Department does not intend to publish an exhaustive list of major life events.

The Department encourages superintendents to consider exemptions for major life events on a case-by-case basis. Each school or district leader is in the best position to understand the impact of the major life event on each individual student. If the major life event significantly impacts or prevents the student's participation in the required diploma assessment, they could be eligible for an exemption due to a major life event.

Question from You

MLE: Eligibility



Do students need to pass the associated course to be eligible for an exemption due to a major life event?

With the exception of students enrolled in grade 8 accelerated courses that culminate in a diploma assessment requirement, students must pass the associated course to be eligible for an exemption due to a major life event.

For eligible students in grade 8 accelerated courses that culminate in a diploma assessment requirement, diploma credit for the associated course of study may be awarded upon the granting of an exemption for a major life event.

Question from You

MLE: Applicability



Can MLE Exemptions be applied to Regents Exams administered prior to June 2025?

While the exemptions for major life events cannot be applied to Regents Exams administered prior to June 2025, if the major life event continues to significantly impact or prevent the student from participating in the required diploma assessment and the student satisfies all remaining eligibility conditions, the exemption may be granted for the June 2025 Regents Exam.

Current Diploma Requirements

Credit Requirements



Assessment Requirements



The background of the slide features a light blue gradient. Overlaid on this are dark blue silhouettes of graduates. In the foreground, several figures are shown from the waist up, with their arms raised in celebration. Above them, several graduation caps (mortarboards) are depicted in mid-air, as if they have just been tossed. The overall scene conveys a sense of achievement and joy.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Credit Distribution

Student Choice in Course Selection

In most disciplines, student choose the courses they take to fulfill credit requirements.



	Minimum Number of Credits
English	4
Social Studies <i>Distributed as follows:</i> <i>U.S. History (1)</i> <i>Global History and Geography (2)</i> <i>Participation in Government (½)</i> <i>Economics (½)</i>	4
Science <i>Distributed as follows:</i> <i>Life Science (1)</i> <i>Physical Science (1)</i> <i>Life Science or Physical Science (1)</i>	3
Mathematics	3
World Languages	1
Dance, Media Art, Music, Theater, and/or Visual Art	1
Physical Education <i>(participation each semester)</i>	2
Health	½
Electives	3 ½
Total	22

Physical Education Credits

Students must:

- earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit of PE for every semester they are enrolled in a NY high school; AND
- enroll in PE every semester they are in a NY high school through their senior year or 8th semester.

# Semesters Spent in a NYS School	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Minimum number of PE credits required for graduation	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	2



Earning Credit

Completing a Unit of Study

[8 NYCRR 100.1](#) (a) and (b)(1)

- ≥ 180 minutes of instruction per week (or the equivalent); and
- mastery of learning outcomes

Credit by Examination

[8 NYCRR 100.5](#) (d)(1)

- ≥ 85 on a Regents exam without the opportunity to complete a unit of study
- oral exam or special project

Grade 8 Acceleration

[8 NYCRR 100.4](#)(d)

Independent Study
(Elective Credit)

[8 NYCRR 100.5](#)(d)(9)

Participation in
Performance Arts

[8 NYCRR 100.5](#)(d)(2)

Transfer Credit

[8 NYCRR 100.5](#)(d)(5)

Summer School

[8 NYCRR 110](#)

Make-Up Course Credit

[8 NYCRR 100.5](#)(d)(8)

Question from You

Physical Education Credit



If a student is taking courses at a local community college in senior year, are they still required to enroll in a physical education course at their high school?

There are not any waivers or exemptions from the physical education credit requirements. Students cannot accelerate credit in physical education; they must earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit for each semester they're enrolled in a NYS high school until graduation or the end of their 8th semester of high school.

The background of the slide features a light blue gradient. Overlaid on this are dark blue silhouettes of graduates. In the foreground, several figures are shown from the waist up, with their arms raised in celebration. Above them, several graduation caps (mortarboards) are depicted in mid-air, as if they have just been tossed. The overall composition conveys a sense of achievement and joy.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Admission to a Regents Exam

Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents:



- All students who had the opportunity to complete the course of study leading to a Regents Exam have the right to be admitted to that exam.

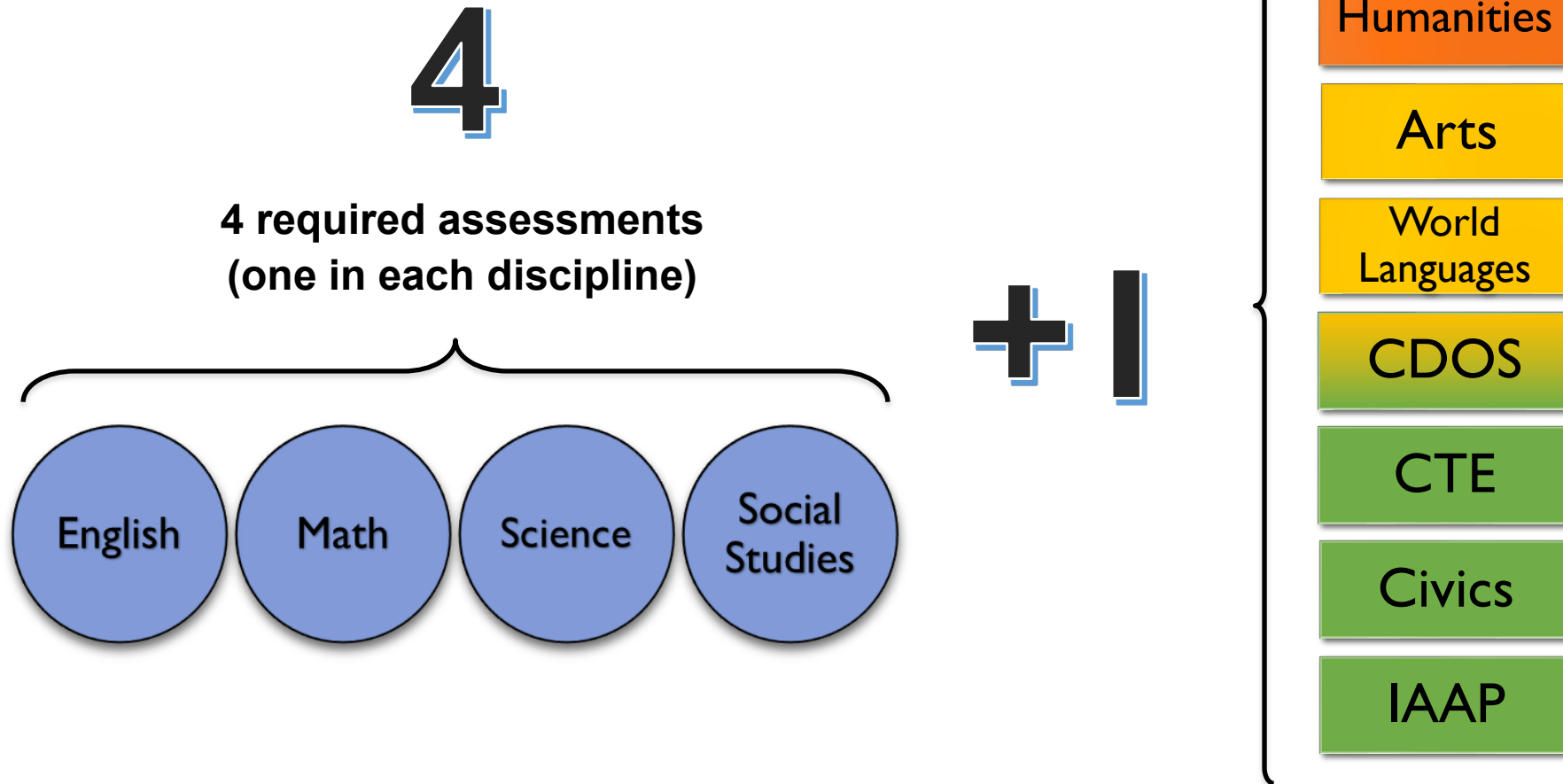


- Students may not be barred from an exam for disciplinary reasons or because their achievement in a subject is considered unsatisfactory.



- In the case of a science Regents Exam, only students who have also met the laboratory requirement, which includes 1,200 minutes of laboratory experience with satisfactory laboratory reports, may be admitted.

Multiple (+1) Pathways

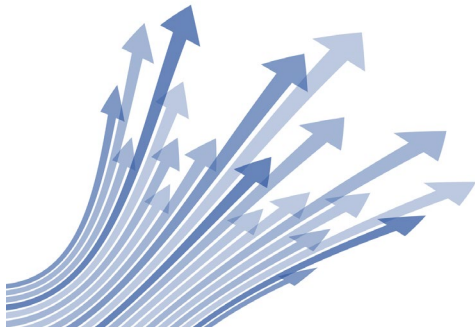


Multiple Pathways

Passing one
additional Regents
Exam or NYSED-
approved alternative

Humanities

STEM



Passing a NYSED-
approved pathway
assessment

Arts

World Languages

CDOS

Completing a NYSED-
approved CTE
program

CTE

Earning the CDOS
Commencement
Credential

CDOS

Earning the Seal of
Civic Readiness

Civics

Completing the
Individual Arts
Assessment
Pathway

IAAP

Multiple Roles of CDOS

CDOS as a Pathway to a Diploma

Student:

- earns 22 units of credit
- passes four required assessments (one in each discipline)
- successfully completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS in Addition to a Diploma

Student:

- earns 22 units of credit
- passes four required assessments (one in each discipline)
- completes a pathway other than CDOS
- successfully completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS as a Stand-alone Exiting Credential

Student:

- attempts, but does not successfully complete all the Regents or local diploma requirements
- completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS Commencement Credential: Option 1



Career Plan



Employability Profile

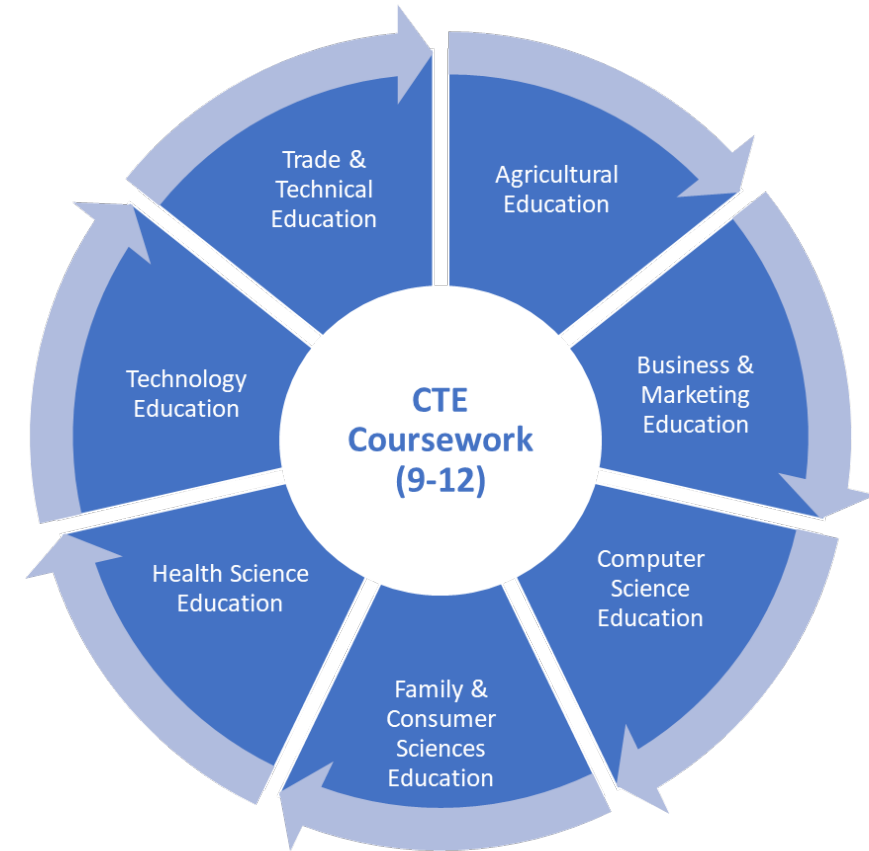


Demonstrated Achievement of
CDOS Learning Standards



216 hours of CTE coursework
and/or work-based learning
experiences*

* at least 54 hours must be work-
based learning experiences



CDOS Commencement Credential: Option 2

Meets requirements for one of the
NYSED-Approved Pathway
Assessments in CDOS



Including:

- ACT Work Keys, ACT NCRC
- CASAS eWORKs
- National Work Readiness Credential (NWRC) / NWRC Assessments
- NOCTI
 - 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success
 - Employability Skills
 - JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills
- SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Career-Ready Assessment
- You Science/Precision Exams 21st Century Success Skills

Diploma Types

Local	Regents	Regents with Advanced Designation
22 units of credit Used appeals, safety nets to meet assessment requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">OR Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma	22 units of credit Earned passing scores (65+ for Regents Exams)* on all required assessments (4 + 1)	22 units of credit Earned passing score on all required assessments (7 + 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional exams required<ul style="list-style-type: none">+2 math+1 science<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 life, 1 physical Completed a sequence

- * A student can appeal one Regents exam score within 5 points of passing and still receive a Regents Diploma. Special appeals and exemptions can be applied to any diploma type.

Sequence Requirement (Advanced Designation)

World Languages

2 additional credits (for a total of 3 credits) and passing a Checkpoint B Exam



The Arts

5-unit sequence in the arts



CTE

5-unit sequence in career and technical education



Question from You

5-Unit Sequence



What courses can students use to satisfy the 5-unit sequence in lieu of the world language sequence for advanced designation?

The 5-unit sequence, leading to the Regents diploma with advanced designation, is at the discretion of the district. The sequence should be a meaningful group of courses building upon a student's skills and interests in a particular area. NYSED recommends the sequence begin with a foundational course and then advance through electives in the discipline; however, the district has the responsibility to determine what ultimately the sequence will include.

NYSED does not have specific course requirements to be included in the 5-unit sequence in either the Arts or CTE for advanced designation.

Question from You Admission into Exams



Can students take the Algebra I Regents Exam after completing “Algebra 1A”?

Students may be admitted into Regents Exams either because they completed the course of study leading to the Regents Exam (in its entirety) or because the Superintendent determined they would benefit from credit by examination.

The background of the slide is a light blue gradient. It features silhouettes of graduates in dark blue. Several graduation caps are shown in mid-air, having been tossed by the graduates. The graduates' arms are raised in celebration. A semi-transparent white horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the main title text.

APPEALS, SAFETY NETS, AND SUPERINTENDENT DETERMINATION

Special Appeals

Any student who met the following eligibility conditions may appeal to earn a diploma with a lower score on a Regents Exam.

- Regents Exam taken:
 - June/August 2022, or
 - January/June/August 2023;
- Earned a score of 50-64 on the Regents Exam that is the subject of the appeal and was taken during one of the above administrations; and
- Passed the course for which the appeal is being sought (excluding earned Regents Exam score).



Traditional Appeals

To be eligible for a traditional appeal, students must have:

- taken the Regents Exam under appeal at least two times;
- earned at least one score within the point range appropriate for the appeal:
 - All student appeal → 60-64
 - Students with disabilities seeking the local diploma → 52-54
 - Eligible English language learners seeking appeals in ELA only → 55-59;
- taken advantage of academic help provided by the school in the subject tested by the Regents Exam under appeal; and
- passed the course for which the appeal is being sought.



Diplomas via Traditional Appeal for All Students

Regents Diploma via Appeal for All Students

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using **one** successfully appealed Regents Exam score no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)

Local Diploma via Appeal for All Students

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using **two** successfully appealed Regents Exam scores no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)





Local Diploma via Traditional Appeal for ELLs

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using one successfully appealed English Language Arts Regents Exam score of 55-59
- ✓ May also use one successfully appealed Regents Exam score no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)

Safety Net Options for Students with Disabilities

Low Pass Safety Net

- ✓ Allows a student with a disability to meet the testing requirements for a local diploma by achieving a score between 55 and 64 on one or more of the required Regents Exams

Compensatory Safety Net

- ✓ Allows eligible students to meet assessment requirements by compensating Regents Exam scores between 45-54 (on any required Regents Exam except for ELA and math) with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents Exam



Superintendent Determination for Graduation with a Local Diploma



Student's parent/guardian submitted a written request that their child be considered for a Superintendent Determination; and



- the student has a current individualized education program (IEP) and is receiving special education services; and



- the student has earned the required course credits and has passed, in accordance with district policy, all courses required for graduation, and the student has demonstrated competency in the subject area(s) where the student was not able to demonstrate proficiency of the State's learning standards through a required Regents Examination*.

*If the student was unable to achieve a minimum score of 55 or did not initiate an appeal of a score of 52-54 on the Regents Examinations in ELA and/or mathematics, then they must have completed the requirements for the NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential.



Question from You

Appeals & Exemptions



Can a traditional appeal AND an exemption due to a major life event be used together to earn a diploma?

Yes. Traditional appeals may be used in addition to exemptions (COVID or MLE) and special appeals.

Exemptions due to COVID and major life events remain with students until they graduate or exit high school.

Question from You

Traditional Appeals



What happens if a student without an IEP or 504-plan is unable to pass the ELA Regents after two attempts?

Students in general education can access the traditional appeal for all students (earned score in the 60-64 range). One appeal in this range leads to a Regents diploma; two appeals in this range lead to a local diploma. If the student is not able to earn the minimum score of 60, they would need to retake the Regents Exam in an attempt to increase their score to 60 or above.

Question from You

Superintendent Determination



Can the superintendent's determination be used for any score on the Regents Exam(s) or is there a minimum score?

The Superintendent Determination Option allows a superintendent to make a local determination that a student has otherwise met the standards for graduation when such student has not been successful, because of their disability, at demonstrating their proficiency on one or more of the Regents Exams required for graduation.

There is no minimum Regents Exam score required for this option.

Question from You

Filing for SD



How do you file for a superintendent's determination?

While the form, [Superintendent Determination for Graduation with a Local Diploma](#) (updated March 2025), must be submitted to the NYS Education Department, this determination is made locally.

*Please do not send additional documentation (Parent Request Form, student transcripts, report cards, CDOS certificates, career/transition plans) to the NYS Education Department.

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ENDORSEMENTS AND SEALS

Endorsements and Seals

Local Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Civic Readiness

Regents Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Civic Readiness



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement

Regents with Advanced Designation



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Civic Readiness



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement



Mastery in Mathematics
and/or Science

Honors Endorsement

If students have exemptions (due to COVID-19 or major life events), the calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents Examinations the student has.

Minimum of 3 scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

- exemptions are removed from the calculation
- computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) must equal 90 or above

Students with fewer than three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

- student's final course grade for each exempted Regents Examination will be substituted in the calculation for honors
- computed average of the scored Regents Examinations and the final course grades for courses for which exemptions were granted must equal 90 or above

Mastery Endorsement

Students may earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if the student meets the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and:

- passes 3 math and/or 3 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or better; or
- passes 2 math and/or 2 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or better and has been granted an exemption on a third math and/or science Regents Examination; or
- passes 1 math and/or 1 science Regents Examination with an 85 or better and has earned a final course grade of 85 or better in 2 additional math and/or science courses culminating in a Regents Examination for which they were granted an exemption.

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TRANSFER STUDENTS

Awarding Transfer Credit

Registered NYS High Schools

The principal shall grant transfer credit for all credit awarded by any New York State registered public or nonpublic high schools.

State Agencies

The principal shall award transfer credit to any student for credit awarded while the student attended an educational program administered or supervised by a State agency pursuant to Education Law sections [112](#) and [3202](#)(7) and Parts [116](#) or [118](#) of this Title, upon the attestation of the chief administrator of such program.

Other Educational/ Cultural Institutions

The principal, after consultation with relevant faculty, may award transfer credit for work done at other educational and cultural institutions and for work done through independent study. The decision as to whether or not to award transfer credit for work done at educational institutions other than New York State registered high schools shall be based on whether the record indicates that the work is consistent with New York State commencement learning standards and is of comparable scope and quality to that which would have been done in the school awarding the credit.

Out-of-State Transfer Student Exemptions

Students who enter a registered NYS high school for the first time in **grade 11** or who re-enter after having been enrolled for 3 or fewer semesters in a NYS high school, may be exempt from the Global History and Geography Regents* and may meet the assessment requirements for a Regents diploma by passing the Regents exams in:

ELA

1 Math

1 Science

US History

Students who enter a registered NYS high school for the first time in **grade 12** or who re-enter after having been enrolled for 3 or fewer semesters in a NYS high school, may be exempt from the Global History and Geography Regents* and the science Regents and may meet the assessment requirements for a Regents diploma by passing the Regents exams in:

ELA

1 Math

US History

* The Principal may also exempt these students from the two units of credit requirement in global history and geography by substituting two units of credit in social studies.

The Interstate Compact for Military Children



Applicable to:
Transitioning students
of active duty military
families



NY Schools will provide
and accept unofficial
hand carried records
from such students for
the purpose of
placement while
awaiting official records



NY schools will honor
the placement of
students in educational
courses, as well as
extracurricular and
interscholastic activities
(when available and if
space allows)



A properly executed
power of attorney is to
be considered sufficient
for the purpose of
establishing residency

Interstate Compact: Assessment Flexibility



Exams Required for Graduation in the Sending State

Where the principal from the sending school attests in writing that the student achieved a satisfactory score on such exam(s) and met the proficiency standards for the course(s) assessed in the sending state

National Norm Referenced Achievement Tests

Where the principal from the sending school attests in writing that the student achieved a score equal to or greater than the national grade equivalent corresponding to the typically administered Regents Examination grade

End of Course Local Assessments

Where the principal of the sending school accepted course credit for a course that would typically culminate in an examination required for graduation in New York State

Where the principal from the sending school attests in writing that the student has achieved a score on such assessment that meets the proficiency standards for the course

Question from You

In-State Transfers



What are the requirements for students who transfer from schools within New York State that did not require Regents Exams?

When students transfer from NYS schools that do not administer Regents Examinations, they are still required to fulfill all the assessment requirements to earn a local or Regents diploma. The out-of-state transfer exemptions do not apply to in-state transfers.

Question from You Laboratory Requirements



How are transfer students from out-of-state expected to meet the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement?

When determining a transfer student's eligibility for admission into a Regents exam in science, laboratory experiences from the sending school may be included. These may include hands-on and virtual laboratory experiences.

An attestation letter from the sending district confirming the number of laboratory minutes the student successfully completed in the science course may be requested. These minutes could be embedded in the course, and this can be an approximation as the school may not be tracking specific minutes as we do in New York State. Any laboratory minutes successfully completed out-of-state may be included in the determination of whether or not the student met the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement for admission into a Regents exam in science.

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RESOURCES




Graduation Requirements FAQ

Includes FAQs related to:

- Acceleration
- Appeals
- Assessment Exemptions
- Assessment Requirements
- Diplomas
- Endorsements and Seals
- Grading Policies
- Safety Nets for Students with Disabilities
- Superintendent Determination
- Transcripts
- Transfer Students

SIRS 340 & 341, Graduation Exam Requirements: Summary and Detail Reports



New York State Education Department

Graduation Exam Requirements Summary Report

Data Contained in the Student Information Repository System

District Name:

Imaginary - 0000000000

School Location:

All Locations

Data Refresh Date:

Jan 27, 2018

School Year:

2017-18

Cohort Year:

All Cohorts

Guidance Counselor:

All Guidance Counselors

Grade Level:

12

NYS Grad Req Met/Not:

All Students

Status	Student Name a	Location b	Student ID c	NYSSIS ID d	Grade e	Cohort Year f	Disability g	ELL h	Diploma Exam Requirements Met										Projected Diploma Type s
									Four	+	Pathways								
									ELA i	Math j	SS k	Sci l	HUM m	STEM n	LOTE o	CTE p	Arts q	CDOS r	
✓	Allen, Joe	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Regents
✓	Boyd, Mike	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Regents
✓	Brink, Sadie	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Regents with Honors
	Bell, JW	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	App	✓							
	Cane, Jennifer	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗					
	Cooley, Kevin	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	Y	N	✗	LPSN	✗	✗							
✓	Mackenzie, Doug	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Regents
✓	Frazer, James	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Regents
	Hunter, Denzel	CANDOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	12	2014	N	N	✓	✓	✓	App	✗	✗					

This report is to be used for informational purposes only and is not intended to be prescriptive. This report displays all exam requirements met and those that may qualify for an appeal. It does not take course credits into account, nor does it ensure that a student has met all criteria for an appeal. For more information on diploma requirements, see: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/Documents/CurrentDiplomaCredentialSummary.pdf>. Exam data on this report only reflect the highest score for each exam. This is not a comprehensive exam score history for each student.

Key: ✓ -exam requirement met or, if in Status column, overall exam requirements met; ✓ -overall exam requirements may be met; further review necessary; APP -exam requirement may be met through appeal; LPSN -Low Pass Safety Net requirement met; RCT -Regents Competency Test; LP App -Low Pass Safety Net requirement may be met through appeal; CSN -Compensatory Safety Net exam requirement may be met; ELL App -exam requirement may be met through ELL appeal; ✗ -exam attempted, requirement not met; NULL -no exam attempted.

SIRS-340 Graduation Exam Requirements Summary Report

Jan 31, 2018

- 1 -

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(hold CTRL when clicking to open in new tab) [Report Documentation](#)

4:04:04 PM

Guidance and Resources



New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements Revised May 2025

The following chart outlines the diploma and credential requirements currently in effect. The chart provides an overview of the requirements and identifies the type of diploma and non-diploma high school exit exam. For detailed information regarding the requirements for each diploma type, please refer to the [New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements](#) flyer and a tracking tool translated into eleven different languages.

For the full text of the New York State High School Diploma Regulations 8 CRR-NY 100.5, [Diploma Requirements](#) webpage. Reference the [Graduation Requirements](#) flyers and a tracking tool translated into eleven different languages.

Additional questions pertaining to diploma and credential requirements can be found in the [Standards and Instruction at P12StandardsInstruction](#).

New York State High School Diploma Requirements

Diploma Type	Available to	Requirements
Regents Diploma	All student populations	<p>Credit: 22 units of credit in science, 3 mathematics education, and 3 ½ units of credit in social studies, arts, health, and electives.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 required Regents exams: science, social studies, mathematics, and English. successful completion of each Regents exam. <p>Reference: Graduation Requirements</p>
Regents Diploma (through traditional appeal)	All student populations	<p>Credit: 22 units of credit in science, 3 mathematics education, and 3 ½ units of credit in social studies, arts, health, and electives.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 required Regents exams: science, social studies, mathematics, and English. successful completion of each Regents exam. 1 of the above exams with a local district appeal. remaining requirements for the advanced diploma. <p>Reference: Appeals</p>

New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements, May 2025

Updated May 2025

New York State Diploma Requirements Applicable to All Students Enrolled in Grades 9-12

Credit Requirements

(Apply to all diploma types: local, Regents, Regents with advanced designation)

Diploma Type	Available to	Requirements
English	All student populations	4
Social Studies	All student populations	4
Science	All student populations	3
Mathematics	All student populations	3
World Languages	All student populations	1(**)
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	All student populations	1
Physical Education	All student populations	2
Health	All student populations	½
Electives	All student populations	3 ½
Total	All student populations	22

(**)Students with a disability may be excused from the requirement for 1 unit of credit in World Languages if so indicated on their IEP, but they must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate.

- 1.) Pathways**
A student must either:
 - earn the Seal of Civic Readiness; or
 - pass an additional Regents Exam or NYSED-Approved Regents Alternative in science, or social studies; or
 - pass a NYSED-Approved Pathway Assessment (Arts, CDOS, World Languages)
 - successfully complete a NYSED-approved CTE program, including the associated assessment.
 - successfully complete all the requirements for earning the CDOS Commencement Seal.
 - successfully complete the [Individual Arts Assessment Pathway \(IAAP\)](#).

Reference: [Multiple Pathways](#) and [NYSED-Approved Regents Examination A](#)
- 2.) Appeals**
All appeals are subject to local district approval. Reference: [Appeals, Safety Nets, and Exemptions](#)
- 3.) Exemptions from Diploma Assessment Requirements**
 - Exemptions due to a Major Life Event:** Reference the [Exemptions for Major Life Events](#)
 - Exemptions from the Regents Exam in US History and Government (Framework):** Reference the [Regents Exam in US History and Government \(Framework\)](#)
 - COVID Exemptions:** Reference the [FAQs: June/August 2020, January 2021, and June 2022](#)
 - Special Determination (June 2022 graduates only):** Reference the [Special Determination in June 2022](#) memo.
- 4.) Special Endorsements**
 - Honors:** A student earns a computed average of at least 90 on the Regents Exams or a Regents diploma with advanced designation. No more than 2 NYSED-Approved Regents Exams may be substituted for Regents Exams. The locally developed Checkpoint 8 exam may be used for the calculation.
 - Mastery in Math and/or Science:** A student meets all the requirements for advanced designation AND earns a score of 85 or better on 3 math Regents Exams and 3 science Regents Exams.
 - Seal of Biliteracy:** A student meets the criteria for earning the [NYS Seal of Biliteracy](#).
 - Seal of Civic Readiness:** A student meets the criteria for earning the [NYS Seal of Civic Readiness](#).
 - Technical Endorsement:** A student meets the requirements for either a local diploma with advanced designation AND successfully completes a NYSED-Approved technical assessment.

Reference the [Endorsements and Seals webpage](#) or [NYS Diploma/Credential Requirements](#) to awarding special endorsements to students with exam exemptions.
- 5.) Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma**
Students with a disability who are unable to attain a local diploma through the use of a Superintendent Determination of a local diploma under certain conditions. Reference the [Superintendent Determination](#)
- 6.) World Languages Exemption**
Students with a disability may be excused from the required units of credit in World Languages if so indicated on their IEP, but they must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate. Such student who seeks a Regents Diploma NOT have to complete the 5-unit sequence in the Arts or CTE in lieu of the sequence assessment requirements for the advanced diploma.



NYS Diploma Requirements Tracking Tool

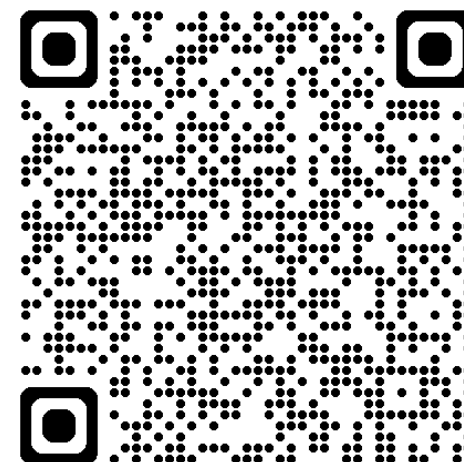
Credit Requirements		Assessment Requirements	
English (4)		Local/Regents Diploma	
		Discipline	Exam Name
		English	Score(s)
		Social Studies	
		Science	
		Mathematics	
		Pathway	
Social Studies (4)		Advanced Designation	
Global I		These additional exams are only required for advanced designation.	
Global II		Discipline	Exam Name
US		Mathematics	Score(s)
Economics (.5)		Mathematics	
Part. in Gov't (.5)		Science *	
Science (3)			
Life			
Physical			
Mathematics (3)			
Languages other than English (1)			
Arts (1)			
Physical Education (2, .25 credits for each semester)			
Sem. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Sem. 2 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Sem. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Sem. 4 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Sem. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Sem. 6 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Sem. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Sem. 8 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Health (.5)			
Electives (3.5)			

*Note: One assessment must be life and one must be physical science.

Sequence for Advanced Designation
Note: Students choose one of the three sequences to meet the 22 units of credits.

☐ Arts (5 credits) ☐ CTE (5 credits) ☐ Life (5 credits)

NOTE: School districts may establish requirements in addition to those of the [New York State Diploma Requirements](#)



NY Inspires!

- Timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures
- Full implementation planned for Fall 2029
- None of the proposed changes are final until they are approved by the Board of Regents
- [Subscribe](#) for Updates

NY INSPIRES

A Plan to Transform Education in New York State

In 2019, the New York State (NYS) Board of Regents and Education Department launched the Graduation Measures Initiative to explore what a NYS diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students. The initiative was developed to create true equity in NYS's public education systems and ensure that all NYS students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in school and after they graduate. In November 2023, the Blue Ribbon Commission presented its recommendations for achieving these goals. In November 2024, Department staff presented NY Inspires: A Plan to Transform Education in NYS.



**Adopt the NYS Portrait of a Graduate**

Students must demonstrate proficiency in both the NYS Portrait of a Graduate and the NYS high school learning standards.

**Redefine Credits and Learning Experiences**

Students' learning experiences and future diploma requirements will expand the ways students can demonstrate proficiency.

**Sunset Diploma Assessment Requirements**

Students may continue to use State administered exams to satisfy future diploma requirements, but they will not be required to pass Regents Exams to earn their diploma.

**Move to One Diploma**

All students who satisfy future requirements will earn a NYS high school diploma. Advanced designation will become a seal or endorsement.

**FOUR
TRANSFORMATIONS**

**PHASED
APPROACH**

**ENHANCED
ENGAGEMENT**

**Questions?**
GradMeasures@nysed.gov

**Visit the Graduation Measures webpage**
<https://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures>



Planning for Success

Planning Year: Fall 2024 - Summer 2025



Exemptions for Major Life Events

- ✓ Exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for major life events



Portrait of a Graduate

- Release definitions for each Portrait of a Graduate Component
- Adopt a NYS Portrait of a Graduate



Support Networks

- ✓ NYSED will establish workgroups and advisory committees
- ✓ Build communication channels to disseminate and support changes to future diploma requirements

Question from You Graduation Measures



What are the Regents Exam requirements for current 9th graders (2024 cohort)?

Until changes are approved by the Board of Regents, we must continue preparing students to meet the current diploma requirements.

According to the implementation plan, the diploma assessment requirements would be sunset in fall 2027. According to this plan, cohort 2024 (and beyond) would still be required to demonstrate proficiency in the high school learning standards, but they would not need to pass Regents Exams to graduate.

A blue-tinted background image featuring silhouettes of graduates celebrating. Several graduation caps are shown in mid-air, having been tossed by a group of people whose silhouettes are visible at the bottom. Some individuals are holding rolled-up diplomas. The overall scene conveys a sense of achievement and joy.

QUESTIONS

Contact NYSED

- Diploma Requirements, emscgradreq@nysed.gov
- Bilingual Education & World Languages, obewl@nysed.gov
- Career & Technical Education, emsccte@nysed.gov
- Educational Design & Technology, edtech@nysed.gov
- Graduation Measures Initiative, GradMeasures@nysed.gov
- High School Equivalency, HSE@nysed.gov
- Special Education, speced@nysed.gov
- Standards & Instruction, P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov
- State Assessment, emscassessinfo@nysed.gov
- Teaching Initiatives, [OTI Contact Form](#)



Thank you for your time



nysed.gov/standards-instruction



p12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov



emscgradreq@nysed.gov



Thank you!

