



# Diploma Requirements Reference Guide

All Diplomas types require 22 units of credit:

4 ELA, 4 social studies, 3 science, 3 mathematics, ½ health, 1 arts, 1 language other than English (LOTE)\*, 2 physical education, 3 ½ electives

| Regents Diploma   |   |
|---|---|
| • 5 Required Regents exams* (including 1 Pathway Assessment) with a score of 65 or better;  | • 4 Required Regents exams* with a score of 65 or better and meet all the requirements of CDOS  |
| Regents Through Appeal (Granted by the local district**)  |   |
| • 5 Required Regents exams* (including 1 Pathway Assessment) 4 with a score of 65 or better and 1 Regents exam with a score of 60-64;   | • 4 required Regents exams*, 3 with a score of 65 or better and 1 Regents exam with a score of 60-64 and meet all the requirements of CDOS;   |
| Regents With Honors   |   |
| • 5 Required Regents exams* with a computed average score of 90 (Including 1 Pathway Assessment or meet all requirements of CDOS);  |   |
| Regents with Advanced Designation   |   |
| Requirements below, student must pass either a locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE examination or a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE  |   |
| • Traditional ELA, Global History and Geography, US History and Government, 3 mathematics, 2 science, 1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments  | • Pathway Combination (other than STEM): ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science), and either 1 Pathway (other than science or mathematics) or meet the requirements for the CDOS = 7 or 8 Assessments |
| • STEM (Mathematics) Pathway: ELA, 1 social studies 4 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments  | • STEM (Science) Pathway: ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 3 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments   |
| <b>Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math</b><br>Requires: 85 or better on each of 3 Regents exams in mathematics   | <b>Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science</b><br>Requires: 85 or better on each of 3 Regents exams in science  |
| Regents with Advanced Designation with Honors   |   |
| • Meets all requirements of a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation with a computed average of 90 or better;  |   |
| Local Diploma through Appeal (granted by the local district**)  |   |
| • 5 Required Regents exams* (Including 1 Pathway Assessment); 3 with a score of 65 or better and 2 with a score of 60-64  | • 4 Required Regents exams*, 2 with a score of 65 or better and 2 with a score of 60-64 and meet all the requirements for CDOS  |
| Career and Technical Education Endorsement  |   |
| • Achieves passing scores on State assessments for specific diploma types and successfully completes the 3 part technical assessment designated for the particular approved career and technical education program which the student has completed. |   |

| Local (IEP or Included on 504 Plan)   |   |
|---|---|
| • Low Pass Safety Net Option: 4 required Regents exams with a score of 55 or better, and 1 Pathway Assessment or meet all the requirements of CDOS;   | • Low Pass Safety Net and Appeal**: 5 Required Regents exams* 3 with a score of 55 or better, 2 with a score of 52-54 (including a Pathway Assessment);   |
| • Regents Competency Test (RCT) Safety Net Option for students entering grade 9 prior to September 2011: passing score on corresponding RCT if student does not achieve a score of 55 or higher on the Regents examination  | • Low Pass Safety Net and Appeal**: 4 Required Regents exams* 2 with a score of 55 or better, 2 with a score of 52-54 and meet all the requirements of the CDOS   |
| • Compensatory Safety Net Option: scores between 45-54 on one or more of five required Regents exams, other than the ELA or mathematics, but compensates the low score with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents exam. Note: a score of at least 55 (or an approved appeal of 52-54) must be earned on both the ELA and 1 mathematics exam. A score of 65 or higher on a single examination may not be used to compensate for more than one examination for which a score of 45-54 is earned.  |   |
| Local Diploma Through Superintendent's Decision (SWD with an IEP, Does not apply to students with a 504 Plan)   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A score of 55 or better on both the ELA and 1 math Regents exams, or a successful appeal of a score of 52-54; and</li> <li>• Participation in at least 1 social studies Regents exam, 1 science Regents exam, and either 1 Pathway exam (or meet the requirements for CDOS), for which no passing score was obtained utilizing the low pass, safety net, the compensatory safety net or the 52-54 appeal; and</li> <li>• Superintendent's determination made upon parent's written request, based on review of documentation as to graduation-level proficiency in the subject, the student was not able to demonstrate proficiency of the State's learning standards through required assessment for graduation.</li> </ul> |   |
| Local Diploma for English Language Learners Only (Appeal Granted by the local district**)   |   |
| • 4 required Regents exams (1) with a score of 65 or better and the ELA Regents exam with a score of 55-59 (Appeal Required**);   | • 3 required Regents exams* with a score of 65 or better, 1 with a score of 60-64; and ELA Regents exam with a score of 55-59, and 1 Pathway Assessment or meet the requirements of CDOS (Appeal Required**); |
| Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential (Non-diploma Exiting Credential)   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completes a career plan; demonstrates attainment of the commencement level CDOS learning standards in the area of career exploration and development, integrated learning and universal foundation skills; satisfactorily completes the equivalent of 2 units of study (216 hours) in Career and Technical Education coursework and work-based learning (including at least 54 hours of work-based learning); and has at least 1 completed employability profile</li> </ul>  |   |
| • Student meets criteria for a national work readiness credential   |   |
| Skills and Achievement Commencement<br>(Students with severe disabilities that are assessed using the NYSAA, Non-diploma Exiting Credential)  |   |
| • All students with severe disabilities who attend school for not less than 12 years, excluding Kindergarten exit with this credential which must be accompanied by documentation of the student's skills and strengths and levels of independence in academic, career development and foundation skills needed for post-school living, learning and working.   |   |

Note: Non Regents Pathway exams are not subject to the Appeal Process

\*4 Required Regents Exams: 1 math, 1 science, 1 social studies, ELA; 5 Required Regents Exams: 1 math, 1 science, 1 social studies, ELA, 1 Pathway Assessment

\*\*per Commissioner's Regulation 100.5(d)(7)

Additional Information: Diploma & Appeals: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/Documents/CurrentDiplomaRequirements.pdf> Diploma Requirements (100.5) <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html> Special Education Amendments: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/safetynet-compensatoryoption.html> Complete Requirements for CDOS: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/memos/cdos-graduation-pathwayoption.html>

## Non-Diploma Credentials

### Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential (for all students except those who participate in the NYS Alternate Assessment)

Beginning in 9th grade, and over the course of four or more years, students can work toward the achievement of a CDOS Commencement Credential in addition to a diploma. CDOS Commencement Credential certifies that a student has successfully participated in career planning and developed the skills needed for job opportunities. The certificate of work-readiness can be used as an option to meet one of the five exam/assessments required for a diploma.

#### Option 1 Requirements

- 1) Developed a Career Plan documenting career goals and preparation (*updated yearly*)
- 2) Completed a minimum of 216 hours of Career & Technical Education (CTE) coursework and/or work based learning experiences (*at least 54 of the 216 hours must be in work-based learning experiences*)
- 3) Demonstrated achievement of the NYS CDOS learning standards
- 4) At least one Employability Profile documenting work-related skills and experiences

Or

Option 2 Requirements Passes a state-approved nationally recognized work-readiness credential exam

### Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

(Certificate only awarded to students with severe disabilities who participated in NYS Alternate Assessment)

-Documents a student's level of academic achievement and independence based on alternate grade level standards, skills, strengths, interests, and other accomplishments.

-Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential provides students with instruction and learning experiences to support and improve opportunities for post-school living, learning and working.

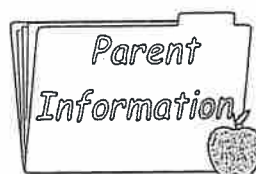
## Things to Remember!

- ♦ All students must be held to high expectations and be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate and progress in the general education curriculum to prepare them to graduate with a Regents or local diploma. NYS **research** shows the majority of students can meet the State's learning standards for graduation.
- ♦ Students who earn a Regents or local diploma are no longer eligible to attend high school or receive special education services. Students who do not meet graduation requirements have the right to attend school until they earn a diploma or until the end of the school year in which they turn age 21.
- ♦ The CDOS Commencement Credential is not a diploma but certifies a student has the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment. Students who are unable to earn a regular diploma may exit with the CDOS Commencement Credential as their only exiting credential.
- ♦ The Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential is not a diploma. All students who take the New York State Alternate Assessment will receive this credential as they exit from school along with a summary of their achievements and overall performance.

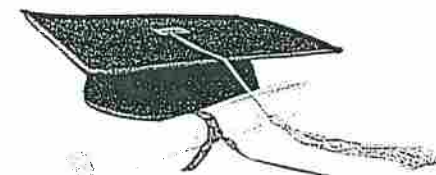
#### Questions?

Contact your school counselor  
or local Parent Center which can be found at:

[www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm)



## Overview of the Requirements and Pathways to Graduation



## A Guide for Families

Revised May 2017

Information compiled by Parent Centers and Regional  
Special Education-Technical Assistance Support Centers  
funded by the New York State Education Department



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NETWORK**  
OF WESTERN NEW YORK

## Earning a Diploma in NYS



Thinking about life after high school is exciting! A critical part of preparing for this transition is learning what is required in order for your child to graduate. Are you aware that your child must earn a required number of credits and pass certain state exams? Did you know there are different diploma options depending on test score results? Have you heard about ways your child can participate in work-based learning experiences to develop skills needed for future job opportunities? This guide provides information to understand all the requirements and multiple pathways to graduation.

### 22 Required Credits

- |               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 ELA         | 4 social studies                   |
| 3 science     | 3 math                             |
| ½ health      | 2 physical education               |
| 1 arts        | 1 foreign language (unless exempt) |
| 3 ½ electives |                                    |

\* Check with your district for additional requirements

### 5 Required Regents Exams/Assessment

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 ELA Regents  | 2 social studies Regents |
| 1 math Regents | 1 science Regents        |

or 4 Regents +

#### 1 Pathway Option

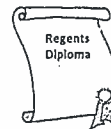
which can replace 1 social studies Regents

### Multiple Pathway Options (4+1)

- The CDOS Commencement Credential
- Pass an additional Regents exam/assessment in a different course or department approved alternative (in English, math, social studies, or science)
- A Career & Technical Education (CTE) assessment
- An Arts assessment
- A Language Other Than English (LOTE) assessment

\* Check with your school district on availability

## Types of Diplomas & Required Exam Scores



*In NYS high school students who meet specific grade, credit and exam requirements can graduate with a high school diploma (Regents or local diploma). The type of diploma that a student earns depends on his or her scores on the Regents exams required for graduation.*

### Regents Diploma (for all students)

- 65 on 4 Regents exams (English language arts, math, science, & social studies) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option
- \*Schools may require students to take all 5 Regents

### Appeal Process (for Regents exams only)

*A student who has failed one or two of the required Regents exams twice, has sought academic help and meets all credit and course requirements, may appeal to graduate with a diploma using a lower score. An appeal may be submitted to the principal by a student, parent or teacher. The appeal must be recommended by the teacher or department chairperson in the subject of the Regents exam under appeal. A school appeal committee makes a recommendation to the Superintendent to approve or deny the appeal.*

### Regents Diploma through 1 Appeal (for all students)

- 65 on 3 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents score(60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

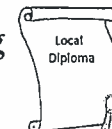
### Local Diploma through 2 Appeals (for all students)

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 2 Regents scores (60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

### Local Diploma for students who are classified as English Language Learners

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents exam (60-64) and 1 successful appeal of ELA exam (55-59) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

## Local Diploma Scoring Options for Students with Disabilities



**Low Pass Safety Net** (for students with an IEP, if recommended in a 504 Plan or if recommended for students declassified while in grades 8-12)  
- 55 or higher on required Regents exams

### Local Diploma with Appeal

- successful appeal of up to two Regents exams scores of 52-54

**Compensatory Safety Net** (for students with an IEP, if recommended in a 504 Plan or if recommended for students declassified while in grades 8-12)

- A score of 65 or higher on any single Regents exam may compensate for a score between 45-54 on a social studies or science Regents exam. A one for one exchange on up to two exams. Students must score 55 on math and ELA exams (or 52-54 through successful appeal) and meet course requirements

### Superintendent's Determination

(for students with a current IEP only)

- If a student does not meet graduation requirements through Safety Net options, a parent may submit a written request for the Superintendent to conduct a review of other documentation and evidence of graduation level proficiency in the subject areas of science, social studies or a second math (*one math & the ELA scores must be 55 or 52-54 through successful appeal*). To be eligible for a review, the student must actively participate in the Regents exam and meet credit and course requirements. Written notification is provided which indicates that the Superintendent has determined that the student has either met or has not met the requirements for a local diploma.

# Examination Requirements

|   | Regents Diploma<br>for all students   |                    | Regents Diploma via Appeal<br>for all students |  | Local Diploma via Appeal<br>for all students |   | Local Diploma<br>for Students with a Disability  |                      | Local Diploma via Appeal<br>for English Language Learners |  |
|---|---|--------------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------|---|--|
| REGENTS EXAM or passing score on a Department Approved Alternative  | # of Exams  | Passing Score      | # of Exams                                     | Passing Score  | # of Exams                                   | Passing Score   | # of Exams   | Passing Score        | # of Exams  | Passing Score  |
| English Language Arts (ELA)   | 1   | 65                 | 1  | 4 exams with a minimum score of 65 and 1 exam with a score of 60-64 for which an appeal has been granted by the district | 1  | 3 exams with a minimum score of 65 and 2 exams with a score of 60-64 for which an appeal has been granted by the district | 1  | 55*                  | 1   | Either 4 exams with a minimum score of 65 and ELA with a score of 55-59 for which an appeal has been granted by the district OR 3 exams with a minimum score of 65, and 1 exam with a score of 60-64 and ELA with a score of 55-59 for which an appeal has been granted for both by the district |
| Math  | 1   | 65                 | 1  |  | 1  |   | 1  | 55*                  | 1   |  |
| Science   | 1   | 65                 | 1  |  | 1  |   | 1  | 55*^                 | 1   |  |
| Social Studies  | 1   | 65                 | 1  |  | 1  |   | 1  | 55*^                 | 1   |  |
| Pathway (See note 1 on reverse side)  | 1 or CDOS   | 65 if Regents Exam | 1 or CDOS                                      |  | 1 or CDOS                                    |   | 1 or CDOS  | 55*^ if Regents exam | 1 or CDOS   |  |
| Compensatory Safety Net   | Non Applicable  |                    | Non Applicable                                 |  | Non Applicable                               |   | Scores of 45-54 on any required Regents exam (except ELA and Mathematics) can be compensated by a score of 65 or above on another required Regents exam including ELA and Mathematics. |                      | Non Applicable  |  |
| Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation   |   |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |
| Depending on the pathway a student chooses, the Regents diploma with advanced designation assessment requirements may be met in a multiple ways. Students seeking the Regents diploma with advanced designation may choose from the following assessment options: |   |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |
| Traditional Combination   | ELA, Global History and Geography, US History and Government, 3 mathematics, 2 science, (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments. In addition the student must choose either 2 additional credits in LOTE and the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE Exam OR a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE.  |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |
| Pathway Combination (other than STEM)   | ELA, 1 social studies, 3 Math, 2 Science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science), 1 Pathway (other than Science or math) or complete the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential = 7 or 8 Assessments. In addition the student must choose either 2 additional credits in LOTE and the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE Exam OR a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |
| STEM (Mathematics) Pathway Combination:   | ELA, 1 social studies, 4 math, 2 Science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments. In addition the student must choose either 2 additional credits in LOTE and the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE Exam or a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE  |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |
| STEM (Science) Pathway Combination:   | ELA, 1 social studies, 3 math, 3 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments. In addition the student must choose either 2 additional credits in LOTE and the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE Exam OR a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE  |                    |  |  |  |   |  |                      |   |  |

\*A student with a disability may appeal scores between 52 and 54 on up to two Regents examinations in any discipline and graduate with the local diploma. See: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cia/gradreq/RevAppealForm2015.pdf>

^In the event a student with a disability is unable to attain a passing score on this examination, upon parent written request, the student may seek a Superintendents' Determination of a local diploma. See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/special/publications/2017-memos/superintendent-determination-of-graduation-with-a-local-diploma-updated.htm>

**NEW YORK STATE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS  
APPLICABLE TO GRADE 9 STUDENTS FIRST  
ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL IN 2016**

**CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

|   | Local Diploma, Regents Diploma, Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation |
|---|---|
|   | MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS   |
| English   | 4   |
| <b>Social Studies</b><br><i>Distributed as Follows:</i><br>U.S. History (1)<br>Global History and Geography (2)<br>Participation in Government (1/2)<br>Economics (1/2) | 4   |
| <b>Science</b><br><i>Distributed as Follows:</i><br>Life Science (1)<br>Physical Science (1)<br>Life Science or Physical Science  | 3   |
| Mathematics   | 3   |
| Languages Other than English (LOTE)   | 1 <sup>(1)</sup>  |
| Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater  | 1   |
| Physical Education (participation each semester)  | 2   |
| Health  | 0.5   |
| Electives   | 3.5   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>22</b>   |

<sup>(1)</sup> Students with a disability may be excused from the requirement for 1 unit of credit in LOTE if so indicated on the IEP but must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate

**1.) Pathways**

- A student must either complete all the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/memos/cdos-graduation-pathway-option.html>; or
  - Pass an additional math Regents examination in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or
  - Pass an additional science Regents examination in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or
  - Pass an additional social studies Regents examination in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or
  - Pass an additional English assessment in a different course selected from the Department Approved Alternative list; or
  - Pass a Department approved CTE pathway assessment, following successful completion of an approved CTE program; or
  - Pass a Department approved pathway assessment in the Arts; or
  - Pass a Department approved pathway assessment in a Language other than English (LOTE)
- See Multiple Pathways at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/>  
See Department Approved Alternatives at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/archive/list.pdf>

**2.) Appeals:**

Appeals are subject to local district approval. More information on the appeal to graduate with a lower score on a Regents examination can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreg/Documents/CurrentAppealForm.pdf>

**3.) Special Endorsements:**

**Honors:** A student earns a computed average of at least 90 on the Regents examinations applicable to either a Regents diploma or a Regents diploma with advanced designation. No more than 2 Department approved alternatives can be substituted for Regents examinations and the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE examination is not included in the calculation.

**Mastery in Math and/or Science:** A student meets all the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation AND earns at score of 85 or better on 3 math Regents examinations and/or 3 science Regents examinations.

**Technical Endorsement:** A student meets the requirements for either a local diploma, a Regents diploma or a Regents diploma with advanced designation AND successfully completes a Department approved CTE program including the 3 part technical assessment

**4.) Transition to the Common Core Regents Assessments:**

**ELA:** Students who enter grade 9 in 2013 and thereafter must pass the Regents examination in ELA Common Core in order to meet the diploma requirements.

**Mathematics:** In 2013 and thereafter any student, regardless of grade level or cohort who begins their first commencement level course in mathematics must be provided with instruction aligned with the NYS P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics and take the corresponding Common Core Regents examination. More information can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/commoncore/transitionccregents1113rev.pdf>

**5.) Students with disabilities who entered grade 9 prior to September 2011:**

Students with disabilities who enter grade 9 prior to the 11-12 school year who fail one or more Regents examinations may take the corresponding Regents Competency Test (RCT) in order to meet the assessment requirements. This option may not be used in conjunction with the Compensatory Safety Net Option.

**6.) Languages other than English (LOTE) exempt students:**

Students with a disability may be excused from the requirement from the required units of credit in LOTE if so indicated on the IEP but must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate. A LOTE exempt student who seeks a Regents diploma with advanced designation, does NOT have to complete the 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE in lieu of LOTE in order to meet the assessment requirements for the Advanced Diploma.