

April 7, 2020

Update on the Cancellation of June 2020 Administration of Regents Examinations and Modifications to Diploma Requirements

As you may be aware, the New York State Education Department has cancelled the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents in response to the statewide closures of schools and districts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This cancellation applies to all Regents Examinations that had been scheduled for the **June 2020** Regents Examination period.

It is important to know that diploma modifications will be made and apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

Students whose Regents exams were cancelled are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). For example, a student that was enrolled in ELA 11 and was scheduled to take the examination in June 2020, does not need to meet the ELA assessment requirement for a local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma.

We believe the following information may be helpful to you in understanding who is exempt from the requirements of passing the Regents Examinations in order to be issued a diploma:

Which Students are Exempt:

- Students who during the June 2020 examination period would take one or more Regents examinations will be exempted from the requirements of passing the examinations in order to be issued a diploma.
- Students who qualify for the exemption must meet one (1) of the following eligibility requirements:
 - The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
 - The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
 - The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
 - The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents Examination but was intending to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

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Languages Other Than English:

- Districts may exempt the requirement of passing the locally-developed LOTE Checkpoint B examination for any student who was intending to take the examination in June 2020 in order for the student to meet the requirements for an Advanced Regents diploma provided that the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject prior to the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Safety Net Options:

- All current safety net options remain in effect for all students and must be considered in the determination of which diploma type can be awarded. Any student, including a student with a disability who does not earn a Regents or local diploma continues to be eligible for a free appropriate public education until the end of the school year in which the student turns age 21, or until the receipt of a Regents or local high school diploma.

Regents with Advanced Designation, Mastery Honors and Technical Endorsements:

- Any students who have Regents Exams exempted due to the cancellation of the June 2020 examination administration are not required to pass such Regents exams necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Example: A student is scheduled to take the Algebra II Regents examination and the ELA Regents examination in June 2020. S/he has passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. The student will not be required to pass ELA and Algebra II but will still earn the Regents with Advanced Designation diploma.
- Examinations from which students have been given an exemption as a result of the COVID-19 related cancellation of the June 2020 Regents Examinations will be excluded from any calculation used for determining eligibility for an Honors or Mastery endorsement on a diploma. School counselors will work with individual students to determine Honors endorsements to either a Regents Diploma or a Regents with Advanced Designation Diploma, Mastery in mathematics and/or science endorsement, and CTE Technical Endorsements.

For more information, we encourage you to link to NYSED's accompanying [frequently asked questions document](#), which will be updated regularly.