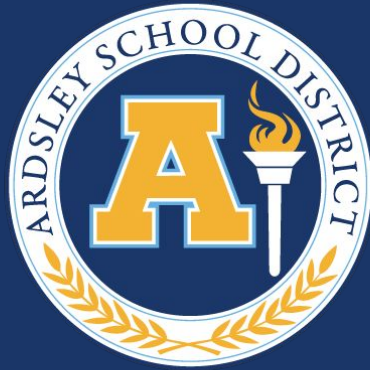




Curriculum & Instruction Update

September 29, 2026

NY Inspires Framework and Transformations

Four bold transformations shaping the future of the New York State diploma.

Adoption of NY State Portrait of a Graduate



Redefining credits and learning experiences

Sunsetting separate diploma assessment requirements

Moving to one NY State high school diploma

Authorization to proceed with remaining transformations starting in the **2027-28** school year.





NYS's New Portrait of a Graduate





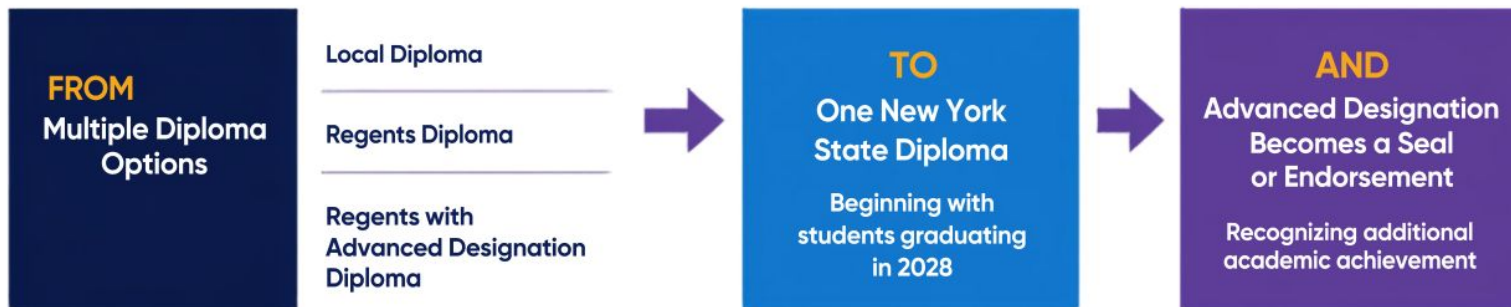
Proposed “NY Inspires” Graduation Measures Changes Require Board of Regents Approval

When will these Changes Impact Students?

The Board must approve any changes to the State’s graduation requirements; until such time, the existing graduation requirements remain in effect for all public school students in New York.

nysed.gov/ny-inspires

Transition to One Diploma and Diploma Assessment Changes



Students no longer required to pass Regents exams for graduation.

Regents exams remain as rigorous measures of achievement of State learning standards.



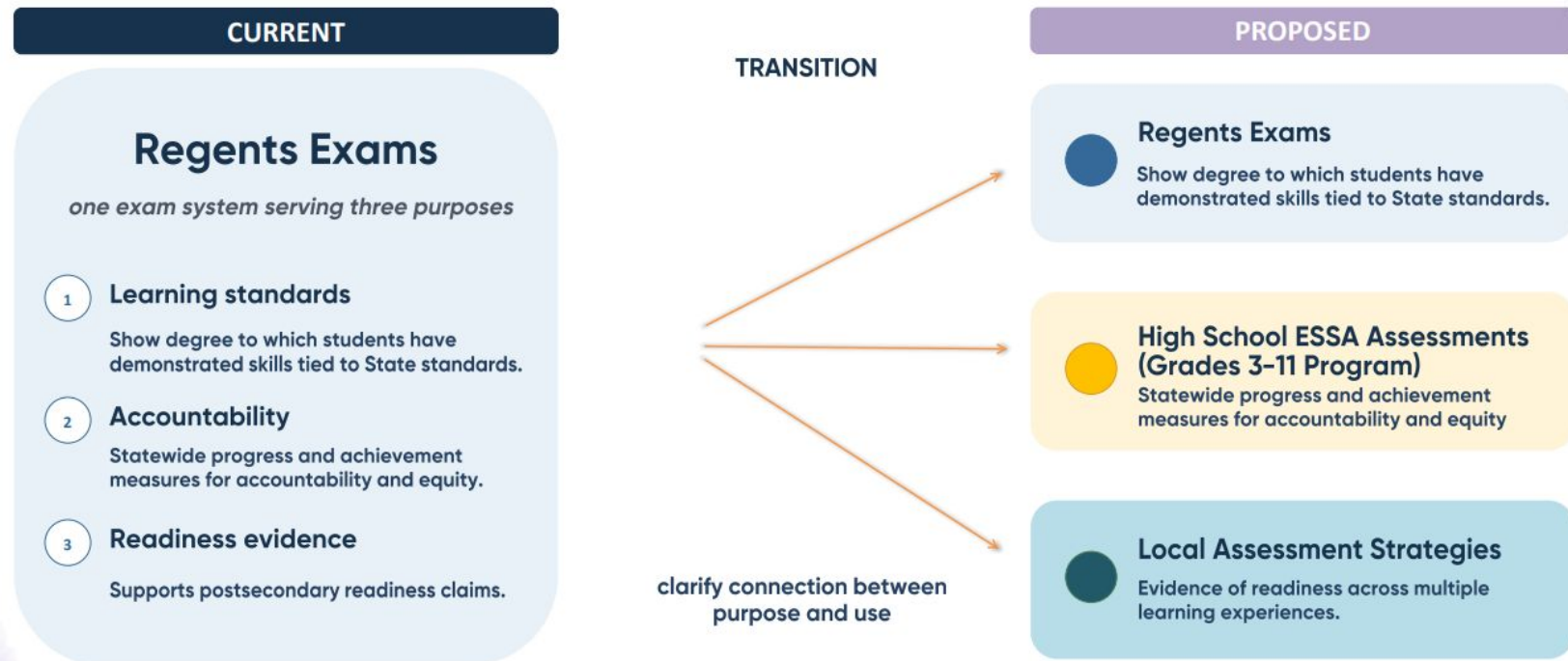
What do Proposed Changes Mean?

- NYS Portrait of a Graduate was adopted and will inform future programming
- The State Education Department is moving forward with plans to remove Regents examinations as a requirement for graduation beginning next year (Class of 2028).
- There will be one NYS diploma type beginning with 2028 graduates.
- Details beyond this are unclear but will be focused on NY's Portrait of a Graduate.

“Regents Exams are not disappearing [. . .]. They will continue to be administered as rigorous statewide assessments of New York’s learning standards. What is changing is their role in earning a diploma. Beginning with students graduating in 2028, passing a prescribed set of Regents Exams will no longer serve as a separate graduation hurdle.”

- Sept. 23, 2026 Message from the NYS Education Department
(<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/ny-inspires-message-from-nysed.pdf>)

From Multi-Purpose Tool to Focused Measure



Bottom line: Regents Exams remain important – but their role narrows and becomes more transparent.

Statewide Accountability and Federal Requirements

01

Federal law requires statewide assessments in ELA, math, science; NY also includes social studies.

02

Development of high school accountability assessments that provide comparable statewide evidence of progress and achievement with opportunity to measure growth.

03

Additional ESSA accountability related changes anticipated at Board of Regents meetings in fall 2026



Proposed Expanded Pathways to Proficiency

Pathways to demonstrate proficiency are yet to be determined in state legislation. These are examples of possible ways in which students may provide evidence of proficiency:



Approved Work-Based
or Service-Based
Learning Experiences



Capstone
Learning
Experiences



Early College High
School / PTECH

(Pathways in Technology)



Earning NYS
Credentials or Seals



High School Courses



NYSED-
Approved CTE
Programs (Career &
Technical Education)



Participation in
the Arts



Passing
Approved
Assessments



Portrait of a Graduate High School Courses

**Academically Prepared ~ Creative Innovator ~ Critical Thinker
Effective Communicator ~ Global Citizen ~ Reflective and Future Focused**

New Courses in 26-27:

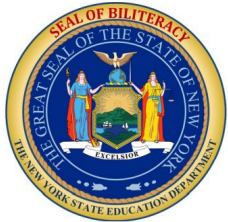
- **AP Business**
- **AP Macro/Micro Econ**
- **AP Seminar**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Intro to Marketing**
- **Journalism I/II**

Sample of Existing PoG-Aligned Courses:

- **AP Comparative Politics**
- **Criminal Justice**
- **Marine Biology/AP Environmental Science**
- **Project Lead the Way: Engineering**
- **Personal Finance**
- **Science Research I/II/III**
- **Theater Arts I/II**
- **And much more . . .**



Seals of Distinction



Seal of Biliteracy - Available Now

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The intent of the NYSSB is to:

- affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society;
- encourage the study of languages;
- identify high school graduates with multilingualism and multiliteracy skills for employers;
- provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission;
- prepare students with twenty-first century skills; and
- recognize the value of world and home language instruction.

Seal of Civic Readiness - Preparations Underway

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. The Seal of Civic Readiness distinction on a high school transcript and diploma:

- shows the student's understanding of a commitment to participatory government; civic responsibility and civic values;
- demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that the student has completed an action project in civics or social justice; and
- recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship.





Staff Development to Support NY Inspires

Advanced Placement Instructor Training

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning

Dual Enrollment Instructor Training (SUNY and SUPA)

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Personal Finance & Climate Education Curriculum Additions

Social-Emotional Learning and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

Universal Design for Learning



Committees Update

Wellness Committee

Students, Staff, and Community Members working together to ensure that all students obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to make lifelong choices that optimize their social, emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

Subcommittees meet throughout the school year:

- **District Wellness Promotion**
- Nutrition Education
- Physical Education
- Wellness Plan Implementation



Technology Committee

District K-12 Staff enacting the [Ardsley School District 2026-2029 Instructional Technology Plan](#) goals:

- 1) Explore, evaluate, and integrate emerging technologies that deepen learning, elevate teaching, and **foster skilled and responsible participation in digital communities:**
- 2) Align and integrate a **Digital Wellness Framework** within the district's SEL and MTSS Structures
- 3) Empower educators through ongoing, relevant professional learning to leverage new tools that expand access and **foster engaging, active learning rooted in purpose, creativity, and confidence**



Great Timing for Ardsley

The Board and Administration had already decided to spend this year creating a five year strategic plan for Ardsley independently of the shift at the State level. It is time for a new strategic plan for Ardsley.

There have been calls from the community for the district to focus on integrating “transferable skills” or “executive functioning skills” into the curriculum. We already knew this will be a significant part of the strategic planning discussion. This aligns with NY Inspires and the Portrait of the Graduate. This is a national movement in education.

Presentation to the Board on the Strategic Plan including the focus on “real life skills” on October 27, 2026 shortly followed by the information gathering stage (first official stage) of our strategic planning process.



Thank you!