Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

NY Inspires Update

Changes to High School Graduation Requirements

October 27, 2026

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Background

In November 2024, the NYS Board of Regents announced changes to NYS graduation requirements and Regents exams that include four “Transformations” over the next several years:

- ***Develop a NYS Portrait of a Graduate***: Define the attributes that every NYS high school graduate should have.
- ***Redefine Credits***: Expand the opportunities for students to demonstrate how they can meet the NYS learning standards beyond what is currently required by the state.
- ***Remove Diploma Assessment Requirements***: The Regents will no longer be required for graduation, but must still be administered.
- ***Create One Diploma for All Students***: Move from multiple diplomas types (local, advanced designation, mastery) to one diploma. Students may also earn Seals and Endorsements in different subjects.

What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Seniors (Class of 2027) NO CHANGES	
Regents Exams	Required for graduation and to meet federal requirements
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course of Study Guide (includes integration of **Personal Finance** instructional requirement)*
Diploma Options*	Local, Regents, Regents with Advanced Designation
Seals and Endorsement Options	• Regents with Honors • Regents with Mastery in Math or Science • Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement • NYS Seal of Biliteracy • NYS Seal of Civic Readiness

The GED, Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) and the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) credential are not considered diplomas by NYS.

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What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Juniors (Class of 2028)	
Regents Exams	A passing grade is ***NOT*** required for graduation, ***but*** students must still take the exams as a component of their coursework, to qualify for the NYS Seals, and to meet state and federal testing requirements.
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course Guide (includes integration of* ***Personal Finance*** *and* ***Climate Education*** *instructional requirements).*
Diploma Options*	***One diploma***
Seals and Endorsement Options	• Regents with Honors • Regents with Mastery in Math or Science • ***Regents with Advanced Designation*** • Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement • NYS Seal of Biliteracy • NYS Seal of Civic Readiness • ***Locally developed Seals***

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What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Sophomores (Class of 2029)	
Regents Exams	A passing grade is ***NOT*** required for graduation, ***but*** students must still take the exams as a component of their coursework, to qualify for the NYS Seals, and to meet state and federal testing requirements.
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course Guide* (includes integration of Personal Finance and Climate Education instructional requirements)
Diploma Options*	One diploma
Seals and Endorsement Options	• Regents with Honors • Regents with Mastery in Math or Science • Regents with Advanced Designation • Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement • NYS Seal of Biliteracy • NYS Seal of Civic Readiness • Locally developed Seals

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What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Freshman (Class of 2030)	
Regents Exams	A passing grade is ***NOT*** required for graduation, ***but*** students must still take the exams as a component of their coursework, to qualify for the NYS Seals, and to meet state and federal testing requirements.
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course Guide* (includes integration of Personal Finance and Climate Education instructional requirements)
Diploma Options*	One diploma
Seals and Endorsement Options	• Regents with Honors • Regents with Mastery in Math or Science • Regents with Advanced Designation • Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement • NYS Seal of Biliteracy • NYS Seal of Civic Readiness • Locally developed Seals

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What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Eighth Grade (Class of 2031)	
Regents Exams	A passing grade is ***NOT*** required for graduation, ***but*** students *may* have to take the exams to meet state and federal requirements.* TBD on connection to the NYS Seals.
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course Guide* that will include a "career-connected learning experience" and the integration of Personal Finance and Climate Education instructional requirements.
Diploma Options*	One diploma
Seals and Endorsement Options	• NYSED: "Students may earn additional *redefined* seals and endorsements, including advanced designation."

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**NYSED has announced that they are seeking approval from the federal government to make changes to the state accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act. These changes may impact these requirements.*

What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Seventh Grade (Class of 2032)	
Regents Exams	A passing grade is ***NOT*** required for graduation, ***but*** students *may* have to take the exams to meet state and federal requirements.* TBD on connection to the NYS Seals.
Credits	22 Credits as defined in the *High School Course Guide* that will include a "career-connected learning experience" and the integration of Personal Finance and Climate Education instructional requirements.
Diploma Options*	One diploma
Seals and Endorsement Options	• NYSED: "Students may earn additional *redefined* seals and endorsements, including advanced designation."

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**NYSED has announced that they are seeking approval from the federal government to make changes to the state accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act. These changes may impact these requirements.*

What Does This Mean for Students?

Current Sixth Grade (Class of 2033)	
The "New Competency-Based System"	
Regents Exams	NYSED: "Development of high school accountability assessments that provide comparable statewide evidence of progress and achievement with opportunity to measure growth."
Credits	NYSED: "Specific requirements forthcoming. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the New York State high school content area learning standards, competencies, and the Portrait of a Graduate to earn a diploma."
Diploma Options*	One diploma
Seals and Endorsement Options	TBD

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Next Steps

- Review the proposed changes from the NYS Education Department (anticipated February 2027)
- Revise district policies and procedures once the state approves the proposed changes
- Continue analysis, investigation, and planning for the new changes via:
  - Dobbs Ferry Curriculum Advisory Committee
  - DFHS Portrait of a Graduate Team
  - Board of Education committees
- Continue to communicate changes with students and families

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