Academic Policy Updates and Graduation Certification

Office of Academic Policy and Systems
May 2015
UFT Guidance Chapter
• See the [NYCDOE Academic Policy intranet page](#) maintained by the Office of Academic Policy and Systems and consult the [HS](#), [MS](#), and [ES](#) academic policy guides for the most current information.

• Contact your [academic policy point](#) with any questions related to this content.
Policy Updates Pertaining to Graduation
List of Diploma and Commencement Credential Options

Diplomas:
• Advanced Regents diploma
• Regents diploma
• Local diploma
  • Safety Net for students with disabilities
  • Through Appeals

Commencement Credentials:
• Career Development and Occupation Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential
• Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

No longer available:
• Local diploma for students who do not qualify for the Safety Net
• The IEP diploma
## Diploma Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diploma</th>
<th>Eligible Students</th>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Exam Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regents Diploma</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>44 credits</td>
<td>5 Regents exams with scores of 65+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Regents Diploma</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>44 credits, including 6 credits in a language other than English</td>
<td>8 Regents exams and the NYC LOTE exam with scores of 65+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Diploma</td>
<td>Safety Net eligible students &amp; select students trough appeals*</td>
<td>44 credits</td>
<td>5 Regents exam passes**, passed RCTs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The local diploma safety net option is available to students with disabilities, students with 504 plans specifying safety net eligibility, and students declassified while in grades 8-12 whose last IEPs specified Safety Net eligibility

** Pass rates are dependent on students’ eligibility category for the Local Diploma
# Regents & Advanced Regents Diploma: Required Course Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Regents Diploma</th>
<th>Advanced Regents Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Global, 2 US History, 1 Participation in Government, 1 Economics</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 2 in Life Science and 2 in Physical Science</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages Other Than English</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education (every year)</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>7 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>44 credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>44 credits</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Regents Examinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Safety Net</th>
<th>Regents</th>
<th>Advanced Regents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>55+</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>65+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>55+ on one SS exam: Global OR US History</td>
<td>65+ on one SS exam: Global OR US History</td>
<td>65+ on one SS exam: Global OR US History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>55+ on one math exam: Algebra I OR Geometry OR Algebra II</td>
<td>65+ on one math exam: Algebra I OR Geometry OR Algebra II</td>
<td>65+ on three math exams: Algebra I AND Geometry AND Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>55+ on one science exam: Living Environment OR Earth Science OR Chemistry OR Physics</td>
<td>65+ on one science exam: Living Environment OR Earth Science OR Chemistry OR Physics</td>
<td>65+ on two science exams: Living Environment AND Earth Science OR Chemistry OR Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1 Option</td>
<td>55+ on one additional exam:**</td>
<td>65+ on one additional exam:**</td>
<td>65+ on one additional exam:**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
<td>65+ on one NYC LOTE exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** LOTE exams cannot currently be counted towards regular Regents Diploma

Students may also substitute state approved exams from this list, or use any of these technical exams (CTE schools only) as a +1 option.
4+1 Graduation Option

• Recent amendments to NYSED Commissioner’s Regulations §100.2 and §100.5, changing the exams students must pass to graduate from high school in NYS.

• The “4+1 Pathways to Graduation” option will be available to any students eligible to receive a high school diploma in June 2015 and thereafter.*

• This does not change existing graduation course or credit requirements. Students must continue to meet all current course and 44 units of credit requirements.

*This does not apply to students who have graduated prior to June 2015, including any January 2015 graduates.
4+1 Graduation Option - Guidelines

- Students must still pass these four Regents exams:
  - ELA;
  - any mathematics;
  - any science; AND
  - any social studies Regents exam.
- With the 4+1 option, students may now choose to use any one of the following exams as their fifth assessment, or “+1” option:
  1. One additional Regents examination in a different course in social studies, or Department-approved alternative;
  2. One additional Regents examination in a different course in mathematics, or Department-approved alternative; OR
  3. One additional Regents examination in a different course in science, or a Department-approved alternative.
  4. One additional state approved exam in CTE (CTE schools only) from this list.

*As in the past, NYSED-approved alternative exams may be used to substitute for a Regents exam. They may now also be used as a +1 option so long as the student has taken the content in a different course.
4+1 Graduation Option - Additional Assessment Options

• For June 2015, schools should assume that the only approved pathway assessments are the math, science, and social studies, and CTE (only for CTE schools) exams.

• Guidance will be forthcoming from NYSED on the following additional assessment options, which have not yet been approved:

  1. A biliteracy ("LOTE") assessment;
  2. An arts assessment.

• To graduate students in ATS, use exam override code “S” for “SED Approved Alternative”

See the Graduation Toolkit.
Local Diplomas

• Same course credit requirements as the Regents diploma (44 credits)

• Eligible students with may earn a local diploma through lower exam scores or alternative exams

• Available only in the following cases:
  o Safety Net Eligible Students
    o Students with IEPs
    o Students with disabilities who were declassified in grades 8–12, whose last IEP specified Safety Net eligibility
    o Students with 504 plans specifying Safety Net eligibility
  o Through Appeals
    o Appeal to graduate with a low score (62-64)
    o ELL Appeal Process
Safety Net: Exam Requirements

• Students may pass the 5 required Regents exams with scores of 55 or higher

• Students who entered grade 9 prior to September 2011 may also pass Regents Competency Tests (RCTs) in place of any failed Regents exams
  o Students must attempt each of the 5 required exams at least once

• **Compensatory score option:** students may graduate with up to 2 low scores of 45–54 if they meet certain criteria*
Safety Net Expansion:
Compensatory Score Option

• The student must score 55 or higher on the English Regents and any math Regents.
• The student may graduate with a score of 45-54 on the Global History, U.S. History, or science Regents exams, provided that each score of 45-54 is compensated by a score of 65+ on any of the other five required exams.
• The student must have passed the course associated with the Regents.
• The student must have satisfactory attendance during the school year in which (s)he received the 45-54 score, as defined by the school.
• The student may not combine RCTs with the compensatory option.

* See the OAPS Compensatory Score Calculator
Safety Net Expansion: Compensatory Score Option Example #1

A student has received the following exam scores:

- English Regents 55
- Integrated Algebra Regents 55
- Global History Regents 45
- U.S. History Regents 55
- Living Environment Regents 65

Student qualifies for the local diploma:
- The 45 in Global History is compensated by the 65 in Living Environment.
- All other exams have scores of 55 or higher.
Safety Net Expansion:
Compensatory Score Option Example #2

A student has received the following exam scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Regents</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Algebra Regents</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global History Regents</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. History Regents</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Environment Regents</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student qualifies for the local diploma:
- The 45 in Global History is compensated by the 65 in Living Environment.
- The 52 in U.S. History is compensated by the 70 in Integrated Algebra.
- All other exams have scores of 55 or higher.

See the Graduation Toolkit.
Local Diplomas Through Appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Students</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 62–64 on Regents Examinations</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 55–61 on ELA Regents Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All students that meet the criteria listed.</td>
<td>First time ELL students that arrived in the US at grades 9–12 in the year 2010–11 and beyond that meet the additional criteria listed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Diploma</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 62–64 on Regents Examinations</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 55–61 on ELA Regents Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• One successful appeal – Regents diploma</td>
<td>• ELL appeal only – local diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Two successful appeals – local diploma</td>
<td>• ELL appeal and score of 62–64 appeal – local diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 62–64 on Regents Examinations</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 55–61 on ELA Regents Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Online process – Request should be made in ATS using the RQSA screen</td>
<td>• Offline manual process – Request form and all supporting documents must be submitted to superintendent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Score Requirements</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 62–64 on Regents Examinations</th>
<th>Appeal to Graduate with a Score of 55–61 on ELA Regents Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62–64 on up to two of the required Regents exams</td>
<td>55–61 on an ELA Regents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note – Students who appeal to graduate with one successful appeal can still receive a Regents diploma.
Local Diplomas Through Appeals: Low Score

- NYSED allows a student who has met very specific eligibility requirements to appeal one or two low Regents scores (62-64) to earn a diploma. More than one successful appeal leads to a local diploma. Students can appeal low scores on up to two exams.

- The student must have:
  - Taken the exam(s) under appeal at least two times
  - Scored within three points of a 65 on the exam(s) under appeal and 65 or above on the other Regents exams required for graduation
  - Attained at least a 65 course average in the subject area of the exam under appeal
  - Maintained an attendance rate of at least 95 percent for the school year during which the student last took the required Regents Exam under appeal
  - Provided evidence of academic intervention services in the subject area under appeal
  - Been recommended by his or her teacher or department chairperson for the appeal

See [Appeals to Graduate with a Score of 55-64 on a Regents Examination](#).
RQSA / RGT

PROFILE 07-X-000  New York City Public Schools  04-04-14 17:52:09
RQST0260  Regents Exam Appeal Request (RQSA)  01229-EBURGOS2

FERRARI, JOSHUA  268-555-476  GRADE LEVEL/COHORT: 12/CLASS OF 2012

EXAM TO APPEAL:  HXRRU (13-14 Jan) 63  US HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
ATTENDANCE % IN YEAR LAST ATTEMPTED: (13-14 Jan) 100%  AIS: ___
MET SUBJECT CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:  ___  DIPLOMA TYPE:  ___

APPEAL RECOMMENDED BY:  _______
COMMITTEE APPROVAL:  

_______  _______
_______  _______
_______  _______

(Enter all 5 Approval IDs)
(You can use F4/Lockup)

To submit appeal, enter data and press F6
F1/Help  F2/  F3/Quit-return F4/Lockup  F5/  F6/Submitt
F7/  F8/  F9/Refresh  F10/  F11/  F12/Exit
Local Diplomas Through Appeals: ELL Appeal

- NYSED allows ELL students who has met very specific eligibility requirements to appeal a low score (55-61) on ELA Regents exam.

- The student must have:
  - Taken the exam(s) under appeal at least two times
  - Scored within three points of a 65 on the exam(s) under appeal and 65 or above on the other Regents exams required for graduation
  - Attained at least a 65 course average in the subject area of the exam under appeal
  - Maintained an attendance rate of at least 95 percent for the school year during which the student last took the required Regents Exam under appeal
  - Provided evidence of academic intervention services in the subject area under appeal
  - Been recommended by his or her teacher or department chairperson for the appeal
  - The student must be a current ELL student or ELL student at time of ELA Regents administration; and
  - The student must have enrolled in any United States school for the first time in grade 9–12 during the school year 2010–11 or thereafter.

See Appeals to Graduate with Scores of 55–64 on Regents Examinations.
Graduation Certification
End of Year Calendar

See the ATS Wiki for an EOY Timeline.
Master List of Potential Graduates

- Student A
- Student B
- Student C
Graduation dependent on...

Coursework Only
• Student B

Coursework and Exams
• Student A
• Student C
Official Record of Students Who Have Met Graduation Requirements

Graduation Date: _____________  Submitted to Pupil Accounting Secretary by: _________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>NINE DIGIT ID#</th>
<th>COHORT</th>
<th>OFFICIAL CLASS</th>
<th>DIPLOMA TYPE</th>
<th>DISCHARGE CODE</th>
<th>OVERRIDE CODE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
<th>EXAMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regents</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>456</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regents</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROFILE 24-q-530  New York City Public Schools  05-17-13 16:45:45
BIOG0650-TEST-T  June Graduation Screen (GRDT)  00041-JMENDOZ
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL: 530</th>
<th>GRADE: 220</th>
<th>OFFICIAL CLASS:</th>
<th>STUDENT ID:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D NAME</td>
<td>GRD</td>
<td>GL</td>
<td>CLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 IND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 LAG</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 LAG 26 Y Y N N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 INQ</td>
<td></td>
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<td>220 12 LAG 27 Y Y N _</td>
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<td>220 12 LAG</td>
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<tr>
<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 IND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT, NAME</td>
<td>220 12 IND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make changes to this data as required
F1/Help  F2/Save  F3/Quit-return  F4/Lookup  F5/Print  F6/
F7/  F8/Forw  F9/Refresh  F10/  F11/  F12/Exit