

## Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure

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### Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements

1. Are students exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning on taking during the June 2020 or August 2020 test administration in order to meet diploma requirements?

In order to meet diploma requirements, students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning to take in June 2020 or August 2020:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and by the scheduled date of the June 2020 or August 2020 Regents Examination will have earned credit in such course of study;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, and has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework;
- 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 leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents but was intending to take the test in June or August to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ #5 for more information).

2. How will students earn credit in courses that were interrupted due to the COVID-19 closures preventing them from completing the unit of study requirements in Commissioner's Regulations?

[Department Guidance issued March 13, 2020](#) outlined the requirements for granting diploma credit for courses interrupted by the COVID-19 closures. In the event that extended closure interferes with a school or district's ability to provide the full unit of study by the end of the school year, either in face-to-face instruction or through other methods,

the student should be granted the diploma credit as long as the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.

3. In order for a student to be exempt from a June 2020 or August Regents examination, must the student have earned a unit of credit in the course?  
Yes, unless the student is in grade 7 and is not eligible for diploma credit. In such cases the student has to have met the standards addressed for the provided coursework, in order to be eligible for an exemption.
4. If a student fails a course, in the 2019- 2020 school year, leading to a Regents examination and enrolls in a summer school make up program in summer 2020 and subsequently earns diploma credit, is s/he eligible for an exemption to such examination ?  
Yes. As long as the student successfully makes up the credit in summer of 2020, the student can be considered exempt from the culminating Regents Exam. If a student does not successfully make up the credit in summer 2020, the student is no longer eligible for the Regents Examination exemption and must pass the associated Regents Examination in order to meet diploma requirements.

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8. Can a district exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B Languages Other Than English (LOTE) examination in order for students to meet the requirements for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?



## Earning Course Credit

17. Can students earn credit for courses that did not meet the unit of study (180 - minute/week) requirement specified in Commissioner's Regulation 100.1(a) ?  
Yes, per [Guidance #2: Additional Guidance to Schools from NYSED](#), any student who achieves the learning outcomes for a course of study should earn the applicable course/diploma credit without regard to the 180-minute/week unit of study requirement in Commissioner's Regulations Section 100.1.

Further, in the event that extended closure interferes with a school's or a district's ability to provide the full unit of study by the end of the school year, either in face-to-face instruction or through other methods, as long as the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework, the student shall be granted the diploma credit.

18. Can students earn diploma credit LOTE prior to grade 9 without successfully passing a locally developed Checkpoint A exam?  
If the principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, determines that the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework leading to the Checkpoint A LOTE exam, the district may choose to waive the examination requirement and grant the student their first unit of diploma credit in LOTE.

19. Can students earn credit by examination through the Regents Examination exemptions ?  
No. Students cannot earn credit by examination using the exemptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

20. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students earning diploma credit through accelerated coursework in grade 8?  
Yes. Any student in grade 8 enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents Examination who has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework shall be granted an exemption from the examination and shall be granted the applicable diploma credit.

21. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students in grade 7 who are taking a course culminating in a Regents Examination but cannot earn diploma credit?  
Yes. A student in grade 7 enrolled in a Regents level course who has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework is eligible for an exemption of the culminating Regents Exam. While this student is not eligible for diploma credit as they are not yet in grade 8, the student is considered to have fulfilled the graduation assessment requirement in the applicable subject.

22. If a district includes Regents Examination scores in the calculation of the final course grade, what does the Department recommend districts use in lieu of the Regents Examination score?  
The NYSED does not encourage the use of Regents Examination grades in final course grades as Regents Examination scores are scaled scores and not percentage scores typically used for course averages. Please see the [2019 Edition School Administrator's](#)

[Manual for Regents Examinations](#), page 32. Grading policies are determined by each local Board of Education. This includes any decisions to use Regents Examination scores in final course grade calculations. Districts may need to amend local grading policies if they use Regents Examination grades as part of students' final grade average.

### Pathways, Department Approved Alternative Exams & Technical Assessments

23. Can exemptions to +1 Pathway Assessments be granted ?

Yes. Any student preparing to take a +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2020 or August 2020 shall be granted an exemption.

- The student was previously enrolled in the course leading to an applicable examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated examination but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ #5 for more information).

26. Can a student be exempt from the graduation assessment requirement for the three - part CTE Technical Assessment leading to the CTE +1 Pathway? 2.62(t)TJ 0 thepro.15 TdthTc 0 T(ent  
Yes. Students enrolled in NYSED approved CTE programs culminating in a CTE pathway who have will have earned the applicable program credit by the end of the 2019-20 school year and intended to take the CTE +1 pathway assessment are exempt from the assessment for graduation purposes.

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determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

31. For students awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential through a waiver of unfinished requirements due to COVID -19, can the credential be used to meet the CDOS +1 Pathway requirement for a local or Regents diploma, in order to earn a diploma through a Superintendent's Determination? 0.2, BT /P 8 Tw 0.11 0 Td [(F)5 (o)5 (r)3 (s(r)-4 (m)-e



The school or district may grant an exemption to the LOTE checkpoint B examination requirement for any student scheduled to take such examination in June or August 2020 in order to meet the requirements for an advanced diploma as long as the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject prior to the end of the school year.

35. Can students earn the mastery endorsement(s) in math and/ or science if they are exempt from a Math or Science Regents Examination needed for such endorsement ?  
Yes. While no actual score would be given, students who are exempted from a math and/or a science Regents Examination and pass at least two additional Regents Examinations in math with scores of 85 or above or 2 additional Regents Exams in Science with an 85 or above would be entitled to a mastery in math and/or science on their diploma.

Example 1: A student has taken Algebra I and earned a 90, Geometry and earned an 87 and received an exemption to the Algebra II Regents Exam. This student has 2 exams with an 85 or above and a third examination exemption and would qualify for a mastery in mathematics.

Example 2: A senior was enrolled in physics and has successfully earned course credit. She received a Regents Examination exemption. She earned a 90 on her Living Environment Regents exam, a 96 on her Earth Science Regents exam, and an 84 on her Chemistry Regents exam. Since this senior had two science Regents Examination scores above 85 and the Physics Examination score waived, she is deemed to have met the requirements for the mastery endorsement.

Example 3: A student has passed the Algebra 1 Regents Examination with an 85 and is now enrolled in Geometry and will be exempt from the Examination in JuTd [uoenw 0.5698 0 Td [(i)16

37. Students cannot earn the honors endorsement if they use more than two Department -approved alternatives. Are exempted exams included in the number of “Department -approved alternatives”?  
No. Exempted exams are simply removed from the calculation for the honors endorsement. Students may still use a maximum of two Department-approved alternatives.

38. Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions but have additional scored Regents exams?  
Yes. Exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for any diploma type; however such exams would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement. If students have additional exams, the combination that most benefits students may be used.

For example, a student has the following Regents exams:

- English Regents, 89
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Living Environment Regents, 90
- Global History Regents, 68
- US History Regents, waived (COVID-19 examination exemption)
- Earth Science Regents, 89 (+1 pathway)

In this scenario, since the student has 6 assessments and only needs 5 to meet the assessment requirements for the Regents diploma, the Global History Regents could be ignored. The average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma type (not including the waived exam) equals 90; the student is entitled to the honors endorsement.

39. How will students fulfill unfinished requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy?  
The department will issue separate guidance and a full set of FAQs to address flexibility in earning the seal.

40. Is a student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2020, and intended to retake the Regents in June 2020 or August 2020 to earn a higher score?  
Yes. A student who passes a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2020, and intended to retake the Regents in June 2020 or August 2020 to earn a higher score, will be eligible for the honors endorsement. The student's score on the original exam will be used to determine the honors endorsement.



NYSED will develop and disseminate guidance on how schools/districts should record the exemptions from examination requirements in their student management systems. The Department will develop new codes for reporting "COVID-19 Exemptions" and provide further guidance.

48. If a student with an exempted exam decides to take the exam during future administration dates, would the exemption or the scored exam be reported? While all scored exams will be reported to the NYSED and included on students' permanent records, for the purpose of diploma type and endorsements, students can use the exam scores that most benefit them.

### Post-graduation or Exiting High School

49. Under current regulations, when a student(s) takes and passes a Regents Examination but does not earn a High School diploma and then decides to obtain his/her High School equivalency diploma, they are exempt from the corresponding subject sub-test of the Test Assessment of Secondary Completion (TASC) exam. Given the changes that would exempt students from Regents exams, how will student(s) who are deemed to be exempt from one or more Regents exams but later seek their High School equivalency diploma be addressed? How will this be addressed?

Regents Examination exemptions. Per FAQ #49, these exemptions can then be applied to the Regents-TASC pathway to an HSE diploma.

53. Will students who were planning to take TASC sub-tests, all of which were canceled when TASC test centers were required to close due to COVID-19, be provided with any exemptions from TASC testing?

Yes. Students who had been planning to take a TASC sub-test(s) when all TASC test centers were closed and no testing was permitted and who meet the following criteria, will be exempt from taking previously required corresponding TASC subject sub-tests:

- Enrolled in an approved Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Program (AHSEP) or an approved Adult Education Preparation Program (AEPP) during the relevant time period; and
- Previously took and passed a combination of at least three Regents examinations and/or applicable TASC or GED subject sub-tests; and
- For the remaining two sub-tests, the student achieves a passing grade in the corresponding approved high school equivalency classes with standards-based curriculum and applicable assessments.

## Accountability

54. How will exemptions to Regents Exams for June 2020 impact school and district accountability?

NYSED will not make high school accountability determinations for the 2019-20 school year based on the performance of the 2016 accountability cohort (i.e., the students who first entered grade 9 in September 2016). Instead all schools and districts will maintain in the 2020-21 school year the same accountability status that the school or district was assigned for the 2019-20 school year.

55. How will a school or district's accountability status be determined for future graduation cohorts if students were exempted in June 2020 from examinations used as accountability measures?

NYSED will work with the United States Department of Education to determine a methodology for meeting federal accountability requirements and making accountability determinations beginning with the 2017 accountability cohort (i.e., students who first entered grade 9 anytime between and including July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018). More information on this issue will be forthcoming.

Any additional questions about the exemptions from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov).