

# Information regarding the Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Related to COVID19 Closure

## REGENTS EXAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning to take in June 2020 (this includes 8<sup>th</sup> graders):

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Regents Exam and by the scheduled date of the June 2020 Regents Examination will have earned credit in such course of study;
- 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 Exam but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score.
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and has failed the course. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or

Schools can apply the “intended to take a Regents Examination” eligibility requirement under one of the following circumstances:

- the student informed the school that s/he wished to retake the examination; or
- the student was receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the examination; or
- the student took the examination in June 2019, August 2019, or January 2020 in an attempt to pass or better his/her score.

Student will be granted diploma credit for their courses as long as they have met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type. Hands on laboratory experiences missed because of extended school closure or student absence due to COVID-19 does not preclude a student from being exempt for the corresponding Science Regents Examination.

A district may exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B examination for a World Language if the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject by the end of the 2019-20 school year.

## EARNING COURSE CREDIT

Students who achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards assessed for a course of study should earn the applicable course/diploma credit. If the principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, determines that a student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework leading to the Checkpoint A LOTE (World

Language) exam, the district may choose to waive the exam requirement and grant the student their first unit of diploma credit in LOTE.

## **PATHWAYS, DEPARTMENT APPROVED ALTERNATIVE EXAMS & TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS**

Any student preparing to take a +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2020 shall be granted an exemption to such assessment for the purposes of meeting diploma requirements. In order to qualify for the exemption to the graduation assessment requirement, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway assessment and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019- 20 school year;
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway, has achieved the applicable course credit and has not yet passed the associated +1 Pathway assessment, but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score.
- The student is currently or was previously identified as an English Language Learner whose home language is one of the languages that is tested by the NYSED-approved Languages Other Than English (LOTE) +1 Pathway Assessments (Chinese, French, Italian, Korean, or Spanish), or a student who was deemed qualified by the principal in consultation with relevant faculty, and was intending to take the LOTE +1 Assessment in June 2020 to achieve a passing score; or
- A student who was deemed qualified by the principal in consultation with relevant faculty in the use of American Sign Language (ASL) and was intending to take the LOTE +1 Pathway Assessment in ASL in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

An exemption from the CDOS +1 pathway assessment can be given if a determination has been made that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills outlined in the commencement level CDOS learning standards, and the student is meeting or has met the expectations of the course taken in preparation for such examination.

All Department-approved alternative examinations are also considered +1 Pathway exams. Students can be exempt from such examination requirement if one of the following conditions have been met:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Department- Approved Alternative Exam and by the end of the 2019-20 school year will have earned credit in such course of study; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course leading to an applicable examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated exam but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score.

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. In the case of the CTE Technical Endorsement, districts may grant an exemption of the three-part technical assessment for students scheduled to complete their technical studies and who have been successful thus far in their coursework. Consideration should be given to length of program, percent of program unfinished, and whether the student has demonstrated the technical skills and knowledge to warrant such endorsement. Understand that the 3-part technical assessment shall be exempted for the purpose of meeting the +1 pathway to a diploma; however, districts must make an individual determination of knowledge and skill attainment in granting the Technical Endorsement.

Students who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2019-20 school year and have not met all of the requirements due to COVID-19 may be granted the CDOS Commencement Credential and fulfill the CDOS +1 Pathway, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

Students may be exempted from requirements that were missed due to COVID-19 closures; however, students must fulfill any requirements scheduled or planned for subsequent school years.

The College Board plans to offer AP online exams that students can complete at home.

### **ADVANCED DESIGNATION & ENDORSEMENTS**

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 have passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Such student will not be required to pass ELA and Algebra II but will still earn the Regents with Advanced Designation diploma.

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 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. 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 exams 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.

Students can still earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions. While exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for

any diploma type, they would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement.

Students cannot earn the honors endorsement if they use more than two Department-approved alternatives. Exempted exams are not included in the number of Department-approved alternatives.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES / ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

Students with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2019-20 school year may be awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without having met all of the requirements, for purposes of eligibility for the superintendent determination option, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

If a student with a disability is granted the CDOS Commencement Credential through a waiver, the Credential can be counted as the student's +1 Pathway toward a Regents or Local Diploma.

All waived exams for all students should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations. However, no score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

A Regents exam exemption cannot be used to compensate for the score of below 65 on a different Regents examination.

### **RECORDING STUDENTS SCORES**

Student transcripts should not reflect a score for any examination where the student is granted an exemption.

### **POST-GRADUATION OR EXITING HIGH SCHOOL**

For those students seeking to obtain a High School equivalency diploma and taking the Test Assessment of Secondary Completion (TASC) exam, producing a transcript showing that they were exempt from one or more Regents exams, will also be exempt from that section (sub-test) of the TASC. As with all students, those seeking their High School equivalency will always have to take and pass at least one sub-test of the TASC, regardless of the number of Regents exams they are given credit for.