

NYS Graduation Requirements

Update on Diploma Requirements and Pathways ~ November 5, 2026

NYS Migrant Education Program

Agenda

- Updates
- Current Requirements
- Resources
- Contact Information





Updates

NY Inspires

- Transformation Timeline
- Subscribe to the NY Inspires email list for updates





Current Requirements

Current Diploma Requirements

Credit Requirements



Assessment Requirements



Credit Distribution

Student Choice in Course Selection

In most disciplines, student choose the courses they take to fulfill credit requirements.



	Minimum Number of Credits
English	4
Social Studies *Distributed as follows:* *U.S. History (1)* *Global History and Geography (2)* *Participation in Government (½)* *Economics (½)*	4
Science *Distributed as follows:* *Life Science (1)* *Physical Science (1)* *Life Science or Physical Science (1)*	3
Mathematics	3
World Languages	1
Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theater, and/or Visual Arts	1
Physical Education *(participation each semester)*	2
Health	½
Electives	3 ½
Total	**22**

Earning Credit

Completing a Unit of Study
8 NYCRR 100.1 (a) and (b)(1)

- ≥ 180 minutes of instruction per week (or the equivalent); and
- mastery of learning outcomes

Credit by Examination
8 NYCRR 100.5 (d)(1)

- ≥ 85 on a Regents exam without the opportunity to complete a unit of study
- oral exam or special project

Grade 8 Acceleration
8 NYCRR 100.4(d)

Independent Study (Elective Credit)
8 NYCRR 100.5(d)(9)

Participation in Performance Arts
8 NYCRR 100.5(d)(2)

Transfer Credit
8 NYCRR 100.5(d)(5)

Summer School
8 NYCRR 110

Make-Up Course Credit
8 NYCRR 100.5(d)(8)

Physical Education Credits

Students must:

- earn ¼ credit of PE for every semester they are enrolled in a NY high school; AND
- enroll in PE every semester they are in a NY high school through their senior year or 8th semester.

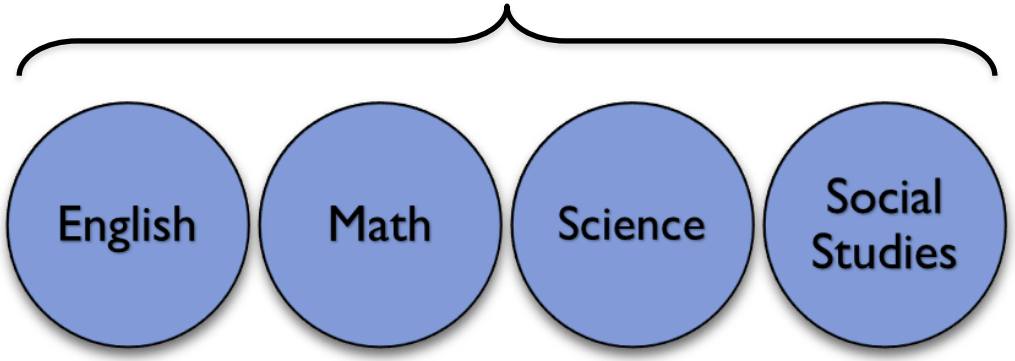
# Semesters Spent in a NYS School	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Minimum number of PE credits required for graduation	¼	½	¾	1	1 ¼	1 ½	1 ¾	2



Multiple (+1) Pathways

4

4 required assessments
(one in each discipline)



+1

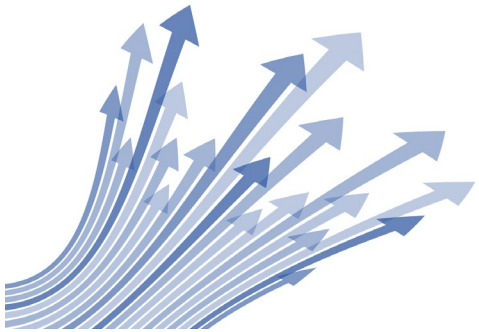
Pathways

- STEM
- Humanities
- Arts
- World Languages
- CDOS
- CTE
- Civics
- IAAP

Multiple Pathways

Passing one additional Regents Exam or NYSED-approved alternative

- Humanities
- STEM



Passing a NYSED-approved pathway assessment

- Arts
- World Languages
- CDOS

Completing a NYSED-approved CTE program

- CTE

Earning the CDOS Commencement Credential

- CDOS

Earning the Seal of Civic Readiness

- Civics

Completing the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway

- IAAP

Multiple Roles of CDOS

CDOS as a Pathway to a Diploma

Student:

- earns 22 units of credit
- passes four required assessments (one in each discipline)
- successfully completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS in Addition to a Diploma

Student:

- earns 22 units of credit
- passes four required assessments (one in each discipline)
- completes a pathway other than CDOS
- successfully completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS as a Stand-alone Exiting Credential

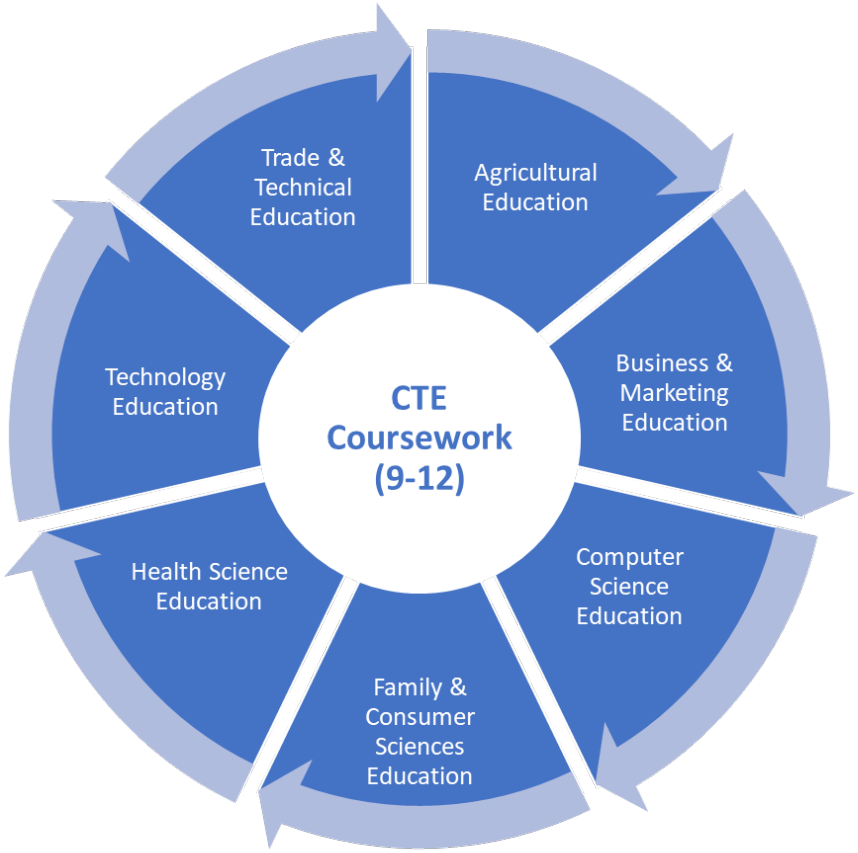
Student:

- attempts, but does not successfully complete all the Regents or local diploma requirements
- completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS Commencement Credential: Option 1

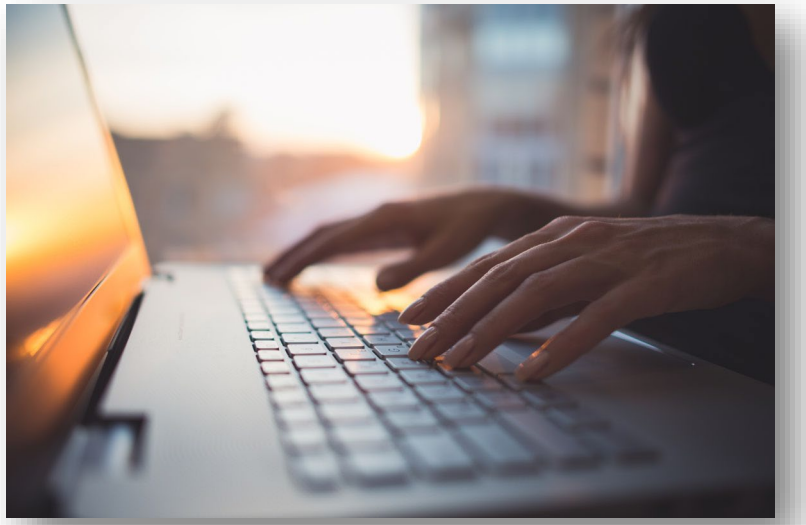
- Career Plan
- Employability Profile
- Demonstrated Achievement of CDOS Learning Standards
- 216 hours of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning experiences*

  * at least 54 hours must be work-based learning experiences



CDOS Commencement Credential: Option 2

Meets requirements for one of the NYSED-Approved Pathway Assessments in CDOS



Including:

- ACT Work Keys, ACT NCRC
- CASAS eWORKs
- Conover Online Workplace Readiness Credential
- National Work Readiness Credential (NWRC) / NWRC Assessments
- NOCTI
  - 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success
  - Employability Skills
  - JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills
- SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Career-Ready Assessment
- You Science/Precision Exams 21st Century Success Skills

Diploma Types

Local

22 units of credit

Used appeals, safety nets to meet assessment requirements

- OR Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma

Regents

22 units of credit

Earned passing scores (65+ for Regents Exams)* on all required assessments (4 + 1)

Regents with Advanced Designation

22 units of credit

Earned passing score on all required assessments (7 + 1)

- Additional exams required
  - +2 math
  - +1 science
    - 1 life, 1 physical

Completed a sequence

* A student can appeal one Regents exam score within 5 points of passing and still receive a Regents Diploma. Special appeals and exemptions can be applied to any diploma type.

Sequence Requirement (Advanced Designation)

World Languages

2 additional credits (for a total of 3 credits) and passing a Checkpoint B Exam



The Arts

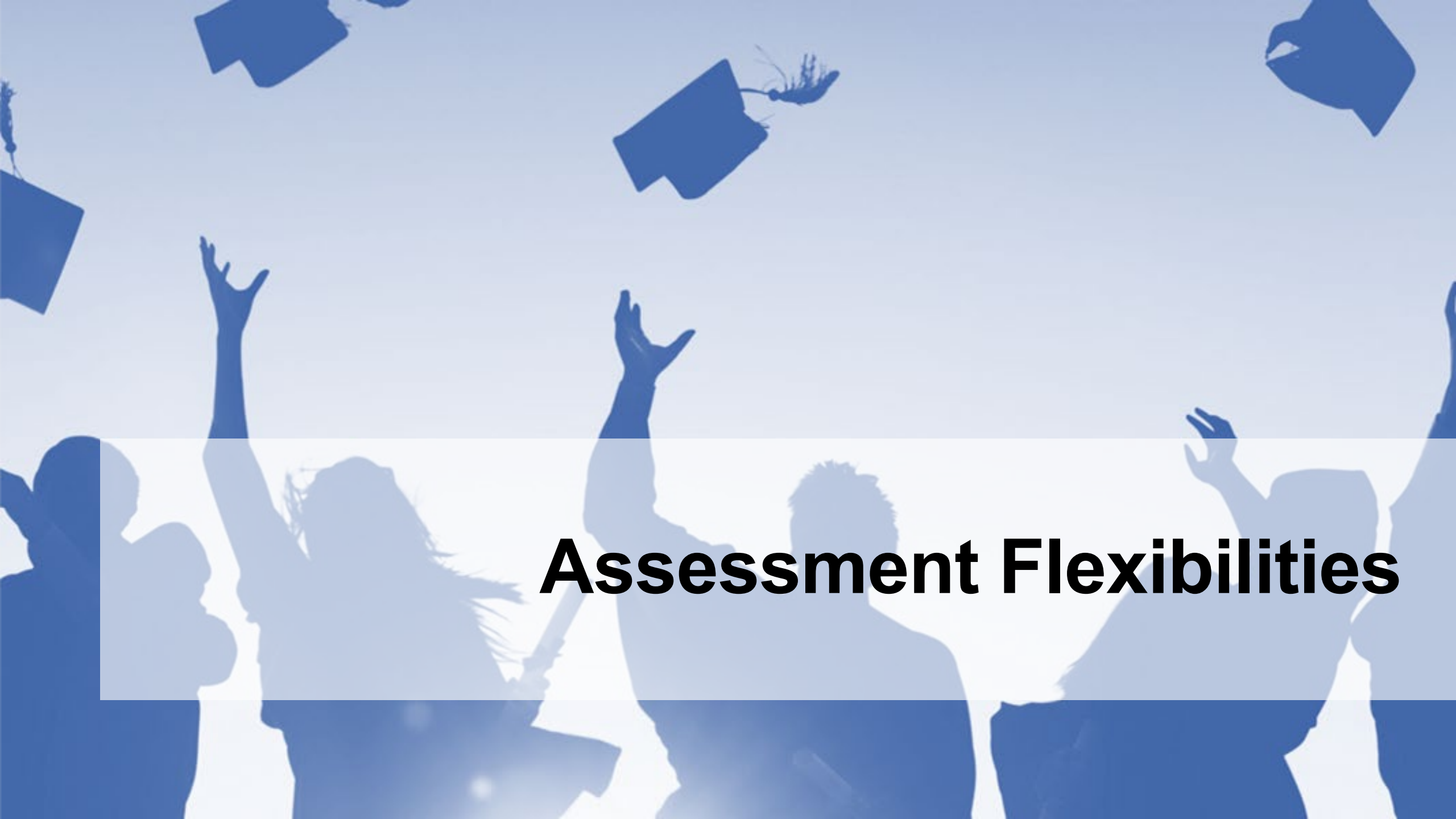
5-unit sequence in the arts



CTE

5-unit sequence in career and technical education





Assessment Flexibilities

Special Appeals

Any student who met the following eligibility conditions may appeal to earn a diploma with a lower score on a Regents Exam.

- Regents Exam taken:
  - June/August 2022, or
  - January/June/August 2023;
- Earned a score of 50-64 on the Regents Exam that is the subject of the appeal and was taken during one of the above administrations; and
- Passed the course for which the appeal is being sought (excluding earned Regents Exam score).



Special Appeals Memo, Special Appeals FAQ

Traditional Appeals

To be eligible for a traditional appeal, students must have:

- taken the Regents Exam under appeal at least two times;
- earned at least one score within the point range appropriate for the appeal:
  - All student appeal → 60-64
  - Students with disabilities seeking the local diploma → 52-54
  - Eligible English language learners seeking appeals in ELA only → 55-59;
- taken advantage of academic help provided by the school in the subject tested by the Regents Exam under appeal; and
- passed the course for which the appeal is being sought.



Diplomas via Traditional Appeal for All Students

Regents Diploma via Appeal for All Students

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using **one** successfully appealed Regents Exam score no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)



Local Diploma via Appeal for All Students

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using **two** successfully appealed Regents Exam scores no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)

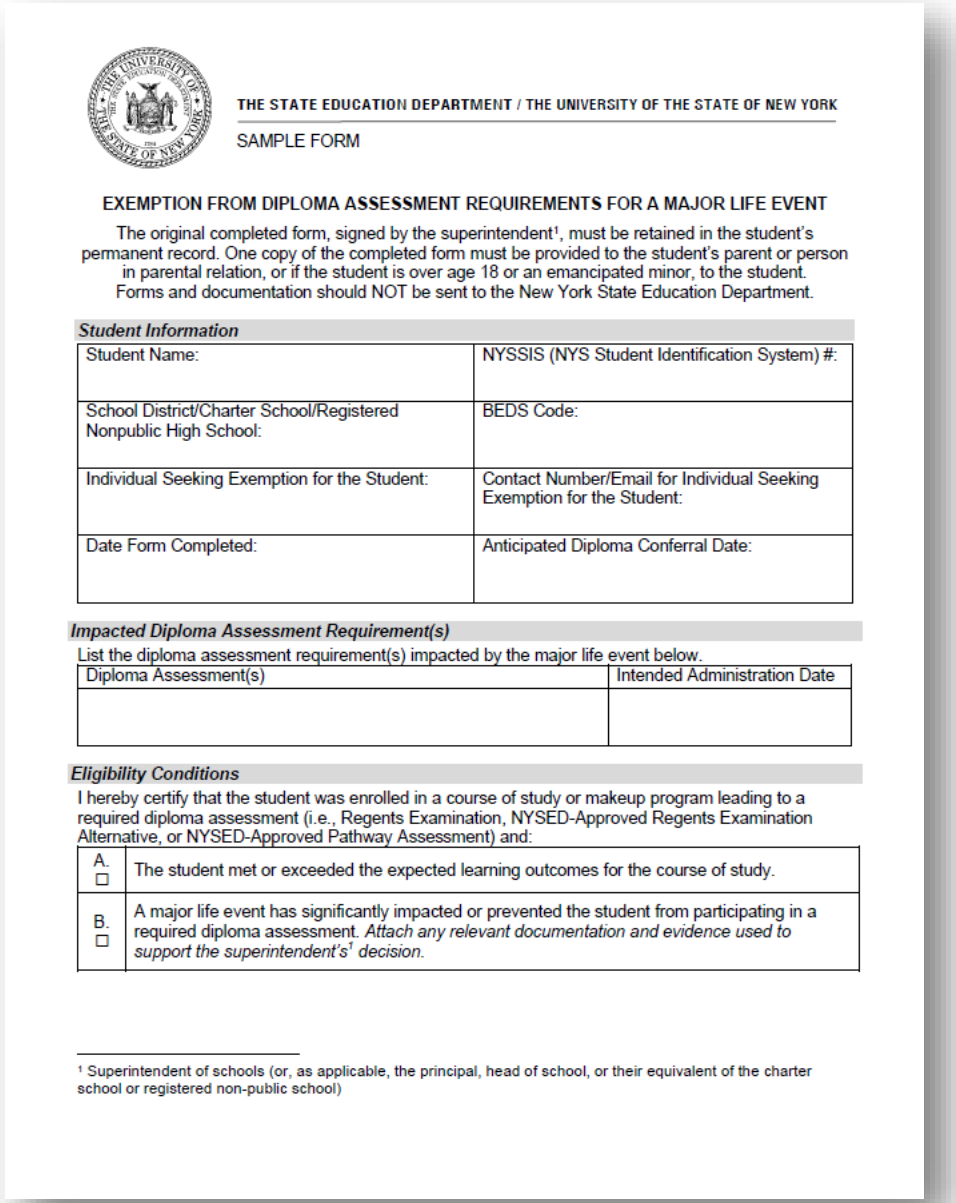


Local Diploma via Traditional Appeal for ELLs

- ✓ Meets credit requirements
- ✓ Meets assessment requirements using one successfully appealed English Language Arts Regents Exam score of 55-59
- ✓ May also use one successfully appealed Regents Exam score no more than 5 points below passing (60-64)

MLE Resources

- March 2025 Memorandum
- Sample Form
- Frequently Asked Questions (See Assessment Exemptions)



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

SAMPLE FORM

EXEMPTION FROM DIPLOMA ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR LIFE EVENT

The original completed form, signed by the superintendent[1], must be retained in the student's permanent record. One copy of the completed form must be provided to the student's parent or person in parental relation, or if the student is over age 18 or an emancipated minor, to the student. Forms and documentation should NOT be sent to the New York State Education Department.

Student Information

Student Name:	NYSSIS (NYS Student Identification System) #:
School District/Charter School/Registered Nonpublic High School:	BEDS Code:
Individual Seeking Exemption for the Student:	Contact Number/Email for Individual Seeking Exemption for the Student:
Date Form Completed:	Anticipated Diploma Conferral Date:

Impacted Diploma Assessment Requirement(s)

List the diploma assessment requirement(s) impacted by the major life event below.

Diploma Assessment(s)	Intended Administration Date

Eligibility Conditions

I hereby certify that the student was enrolled in a course of study or makeup program leading to a required diploma assessment (i.e., Regents Examination, NYSED-Approved Regents Examination Alternative, or NYSED-Approved Pathway Assessment) and:

A. ☐	The student met or exceeded the expected learning outcomes for the course of study.
B. ☐	A major life event has significantly impacted or prevented the student from participating in a required diploma assessment. *Attach any relevant documentation and evidence used to support the superintendent's[1] decision.*

[1] Superintendent of schools (or, as applicable, the principal, head of school, or their equivalent of the charter school or registered non-public school)

Safety Net Options for Students with Disabilities

Low Pass Safety Net

- ✓ Allows a student with a disability to meet the testing requirements for a local diploma by achieving a score between 55 and 64 on one or more of the required Regents Exams

Compensatory Safety Net

- ✓ Allows eligible students to meet assessment requirements by compensating Regents Exam scores between 45-54 (on any required Regents Exam except for ELA and math) with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents Exam



Superintendent Determination for Graduation with a Local Diploma

- Student's parent/guardian submitted a written request that their child be considered for a Superintendent Determination; and
- the student has a current individualized education program (IEP) and is receiving special education services; and
- the student has earned the required course credits and has passed, in accordance with district policy, all courses required for graduation, and the student has demonstrated competency in the subject area(s) where the student was not able to demonstrate proficiency of the State's learning standards through a required Regents Examination*.

*If the student was unable to achieve a minimum score of 55 or did not initiate an appeal of a score of 52-54 on the Regents Examinations in ELA and/or mathematics, then they must have completed the requirements for the NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential.





Transfer Students

Awarding Transfer Credit

Registered NYS High Schools

The principal shall grant transfer credit for all credit awarded by any New York State registered public or nonpublic high schools.

State Agencies

The principal shall award transfer credit to any student for credit awarded while the student attended an educational program administered or supervised by a State agency pursuant to Education Law sections 112 and 3202(7) and Parts 116 or 118 of this Title, upon the attestation of the chief administrator of such program.

Other Educational/ Cultural Institutions

The principal, after consultation with relevant faculty, may award transfer credit for work done at other educational and cultural institutions and for work done through independent study. The decision as to whether or not to award transfer credit for work done at educational institutions other than New York State registered high schools shall be based on whether the record indicates that the work is consistent with New York State commencement learning standards and is of comparable scope and quality to that which would have been done in the school awarding the credit.

Out-of-State Transfer Student Exemptions

Students who enter a registered NYS high school for the first time in **grade 11** or who re-enter after having been enrolled for 3 or fewer semesters in a NYS high school, may be exempt from the Global History and Geography Regents* and may meet the assessment requirements for a Regents diploma by passing the Regents exams in:

- ELA
- 1 Math
- 1 Science
- US History

Students who enter a registered NYS high school for the first time in **grade 12** or who re-enter after having been enrolled for 3 or fewer semesters in a NYS high school, may be exempt from the Global History and Geography Regents* and the science Regents and may meet the assessment requirements for a Regents diploma by passing the Regents exams in:

- ELA
- 1 Math
- US History

* The Principal may also exempt these students from the two units of credit requirement in global history and geography by substituting two units of credit in social studies.



RESOURCES

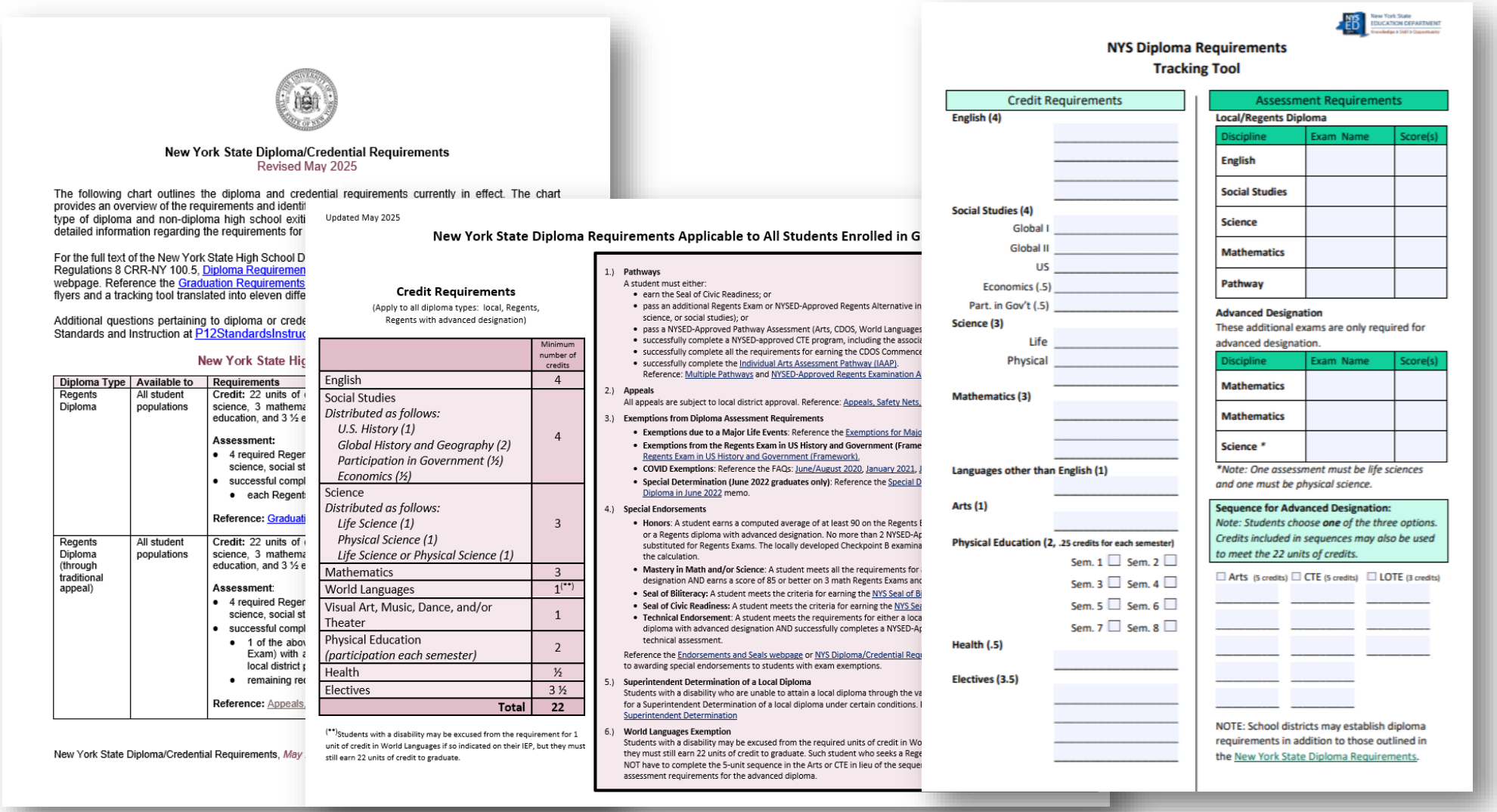


Graduation Requirements FAQ

Includes FAQs related to:

- Acceleration
- Appeals
- Assessment Exemptions
- Assessment Requirements
- Diplomas
- Endorsements and Seals
- Grading Policies
- Safety Nets for Students with Disabilities
- Superintendent Determination
- Transcripts
- Transfer Students

Guidance and Resources



New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements
Revised May 2025

The following chart outlines the diploma and credential requirements currently in effect. The chart provides an overview of the requirements and identi
type of diploma and non-diploma high school exiti
detailed information regarding the requirements for

For the full text of the New York State High School D
Regulations 8 CRR-NY 100.5, Diploma Requiremen
webpage. Reference the Graduation Requirements
flyers and a tracking tool translated in eleven diffe

Additional questions pertaining to diploma or crede
Standards and Instruction at P12StandardsInstruc

New York State Hig

Diploma Type	Available to	Requirements
Regents Diploma	All student populations	**Credit:** 22 units of c science, 3 mathema education, and 3 ½ e **Assessment:** • 4 required Regen science, social st • successful compl • each Regents **Reference:** Graduati
Regents Diploma (through traditional appeal)	All student populations	**Credit:** 22 units of c science, 3 mathema education, and 3 ½ e **Assessment:** • 4 required Regen science, social st • successful compl • 1 of the abov Exam) with a local district g • remaining re **Reference:** Appeals,

New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements, *May*

Updated May 2025

New York State Diploma Requirements Applicable to All Students Enrolled in G

Credit Requirements
(Apply to all diploma types: local, Regents, Regents with advanced designation)

	Minimum number of credits
English	4
Social Studies *Distributed as follows:* *U.S. History (1)* *Global History and Geography (2)* *Participation in Government (½)* *Economics (½)*	4
Science *Distributed as follows:* *Life Science (1)* *Physical Science (1)* *Life Science or Physical Science (1)*	3
Mathematics	3
World Languages	1(**)
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	1
Physical Education *(participation each semester)*	2
Health	½
Electives	3 ½
Total	**22**

(**)Students with a disability may be excused from the requirement for 1 unit of credit in World Languages if so indicated on their IEP, but they must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate.

1.) **Pathways**
A student must either:
- earn the Seal of Civic Readiness; or
- pass an additional Regents Exam or NYSED-Approved Regents Alternative in science, or social studies); or
- pass a NYSED-Approved Pathway Assessment (Arts, CDOS, World Languages
- successfully complete a NYSED-approved CTE program, including the associ
- successfully complete all the requirements for earning the CDOS Commence
- successfully complete the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP).
Reference: Multiple Pathways and NYSED-Approved Regents Examination A

2.) **Appeals**
All appeals are subject to local district approval. Reference: Appeals, Safety Nets,

3.) **Exemptions from Diploma Assessment Requirements**
- **Exemptions due to a Major Life Events**: Reference the Exemptions for Majo
- **Exemptions from the Regents Exam in US History and Government (Frame** Regents Exam in US History and Government (Framework).
- **COVID Exemptions**: Reference the FAQs: June/August 2020, January 2021,
- **Special Determination (June 2022 graduates only)**: Reference the Special D Diploma in June 2022 memo.

4.) **Special Endorsements**
- **Honors**: A student earns a computed average of at least 90 on the Regents E or a Regents diploma with advanced designation. No more than 2 NYSED-Ap substituted for Regents Exams. The locally developed Checkpoint B examina the calculation.
- **Mastery in Math and/or Science**: A student meets all the requirements for designation AND earns a score of 85 or better on 3 math Regents Exams and
- **Seal of Biliteracy:** A student meets the criteria for earning the NYS Seal of Bi
- **Seal of Civic Readiness:** A student meets the criteria for earning the NYS Sea
- **Technical Endorsement**: A student meets the requirements for either a loca diploma with advanced designation AND successfully completes a NYSED-Ap technical assessment.

Reference the Endorsements and Seals webpage or NYS Diploma/Credential Requ to awarding special endorsements to students with exam exemptions.

5.) **Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma**
Students with a disability who are unable to attain a local diploma through the va for a Superintendent Determination of a local diploma under certain conditions. I Superintendent Determination

6.) **World Languages Exemption**
Students with a disability may be excused from the required units of credit in Wo they must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate. Such student who seeks a Rege NOT have to complete the 5-unit sequence in the Arts or CTE in lieu of the sequer assessment requirements for the advanced diploma.

NYS Diploma Requirements
Tracking Tool

Credit Requirements

English (4)

Social Studies (4)
Global I
Global II
US
Economics (.5)
Part. in Gov't (.5)

Science (3)
Life
Physical

Mathematics (3)

Languages other than English (1)

Arts (1)

Physical Education (2, .25 credits for each semester)
Sem. 1 ☐ Sem. 2 ☐
Sem. 3 ☐ Sem. 4 ☐
Sem. 5 ☐ Sem. 6 ☐
Sem. 7 ☐ Sem. 8 ☐

Health (.5)

Electives (3.5)

Assessment Requirements

Local/Regents Diploma

Discipline	Exam Name	Score(s)
English		
Social Studies		
Science		
Mathematics		
Pathway		

Advanced Designation
These additional exams are only required for advanced designation.

Discipline	Exam Name	Score(s)
Mathematics		
Mathematics		
Science *		

**Note: One assessment must be life sciences and one must be physical science.*

Sequence for Advanced Designation:
*Note: Students choose **one** of the three options. Credits included in sequences may also be used to meet the 22 units of credits.*

☐ Arts (5 credits) ☐ CTE (5 credits) ☐ LOTE (3 credits)

NOTE: School districts may establish diploma requirements in addition to those outlined in the New York State Diploma Requirements.

Graduation Resources



QUESTIONS

Contact NYSED

- Bilingual Education & World Languages, obewl@nysed.gov
- Career & Technical Education, emsccte@nysed.gov
- Educational Design & Technology, edtech@nysed.gov
- Graduation Measures Initiative, GradMeasures@nysed.gov
- High School Equivalency, HSE@nysed.gov
- Special Education, speced@nysed.gov
- Standards & Instruction, P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov
- State Assessment, emscassessinfo@nysed.gov
- Teaching Initiatives, OTI Contact Form





Contact Us!

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Thank you!