



Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism

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James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 7, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) today officially announced the cancellation of the June 2020 administration of Regents Exams and released guidance on modifications to requirements for students to graduate and earn their high school diplomas, credentials and endorsements.

According to NYSED, students who, during the June 2020 examination period would have taken one or more Regents examinations will be exempted from passing the assessments in order to be issued a diploma. To qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- 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 and earn the course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to an applicable Regents examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents examination but intended to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

NYSED today also released additional guidance on the following:

- NYSED-approved +1 Pathway Assessments;
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE) locally developed Checkpoint B examinations;
- Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential and +1 Pathway;
- use of safety nets;
- diploma endorsements including Honors, Mastery and CTE Technical Endorsement; and
- accountability determinations.

Full details of NYSED's actions and decisions can be found at **NYSED.gov**.

While the state's decision is extremely disappointing for all of us, it is a necessary step for us to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and making sure we keep our students, families and staff safe. Specific questions about Regents, credentialing and certifications may be directed to your school principal or program administrator.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Montesano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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