

## Non-Diploma Credentials

A diploma alone does not necessarily prepare students for the workplace. Beginning in 9th grade, and over the course of four or more years, students can work toward the achievement of a CDOS Commencement Credential in addition to a diploma. It certifies that a student has successfully participated in career planning and developed the skills needed for job opportunities. This certificate of work-readiness can also be used as an option to meet one of the five exam/assessment requirements for a diploma.

### Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential

Available to all students except those who participate in the NYS Alternate Assessment testing program

#### Option 1 Requirements

- 1) Developed a **Career Plan** documenting career goals and preparation
- 2) Completed a minimum of 216 hours of Career & Technical Education (CTE) coursework **and/or** work based learning experiences (*at least 54 of the 216 hours must be in work-based learning experiences*)
- 3) **Demonstrated** achievement of the NYS CDOS learning standards
- 4) At least one **Employability Profile** documenting work-related skills and experiences

Or

**Option 2 Requirements** Passes a state-approved nationally recognized work-readiness credential exam

### Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

A certificate only awarded to students with severe disabilities who participated in NYS Alternate Assessment

-Documents a student's level of academic achievement and independence based on alternate grade level standards, skills, strengths, interests, and other accomplishments.

-Provides learning experiences both in school and whenever possible and appropriate, in the community, to support and improve opportunities for post-school living, learning and working.

## Things to Remember!

- ◆ All students must be held to high expectations and be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate and progress in the general education curriculum to prepare them to graduate with a Regents or local diploma. NYS research shows the majority of students can meet the State's learning standards for graduation.
- ◆ Students that earn a Regents or local diploma are no longer eligible to attend high school or receive special education services. Students who do not meet graduation requirements have the right to attend school until they earn a diploma or until the end of the school year in which they turn age 21.
- ◆ The CDOS Commencement Credential is not a diploma but certifies a student has the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment. Students who are unable to earn a regular diploma may complete high school with the CDOS Commencement Credential as their only exiting credential.
- ◆ The Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential is not a diploma. All students who take the New York State Alternate Assessment will receive this credential as they exit from school along with a summary of their achievements and overall performance.

## Questions?

Contact your school counselor

or the NYS Education Department, Office of Curriculum and Instruction at [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov) or 518.474.5922



## Understanding the Requirements and Pathways to Graduation



## A Guide for Families



Westchester Institute  
for Human Development

Community Support Network

914-493-8119

Information was originally compiled by NYS Parent Centers and Regional Special Education-Technical Assistance Support Centers funded by the New York State Education Department  
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## Earning a Diploma in NYS



Thinking about life after high school is exciting! A critical part of preparing for this transition is learning what is required in order for your child to graduate. Are you aware that your child must earn a required number of

credits and pass certain state exams? Did you know there are different diploma options depending on test score results? Have you heard about ways your child can participate in work-based learning experiences to develop skills needed for future job opportunities? This guide provides information to understand all the requirements and multiple pathways to graduation.

### 22 Required Credits

4 ELA	4 social studies
3 science	3 math
½ health	2 physical education
1 arts	1 foreign language (unless exempt)
3 ½ electives	

### 5 Required Regents Exams/Assessment

1 ELA Regents	1 social studies Regents
1 math Regents	1 science Regents
+	
1 Pathway Assessment Option	

### Pathway Options

- The CDOS Commencement Credential Option 1 or 2
- An additional Regents exam/assessment in a different course or department approved alternative (in English, math, social studies, or science)
- A Career & Technical Education (CTE) assessment
- An Arts assessment
- A Language Other Than English (LOTE) assessment

\* Check with your school district on availability

## Types of Diplomas & Required Exam Scores for All Students



### Regents Diploma

- 65 on 4 Regents exams (English language arts, math, science, social studies, ) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option
- \*Schools may require students to take all 5 Regents exams**

### Appeal Process (for Regents exams only)

*A student who has failed either one or two of the required Regents exams twice, has sought academic help and meets all credit and course requirements, may appeal to graduate with a diploma using a lower score. An appeal may be submitted to the principal by a student, parent or teacher. The appeal must be recommended by the teacher or department chairperson in the subject of the Regents exam under appeal. A school appeal committee makes a recommendation to the Superintendent to approve or deny the appeal.*

### Regents Diploma through 1 Appeal

- 65 on 3 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents score(60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

**Local Diploma** *An official high school diploma which can be awarded to any student who does not meet the required Regents exams scores but scores within the acceptable range of achievement of NYS learning standards*

### Local Diploma through 2 Appeals

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 2 Regents scores (60-64) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option



### Local Diploma for students who are classified as English Language Learners

- 65 on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of 1 Regents exam (60-64) and 1 successful appeal of ELA exam (55-59) and meets requirements of 1 Pathway Option

## Local Diploma Scoring Options for Students with Disabilities

**Low Pass Safety Net** *(for students with an IEP, if recommended in a 504 Plan or if recommended for students declassified while in grades 8-12)*

- 55 or higher on 2 required Regents exams and successful appeal of up to two Regents exams scores of 52-54 and meets requirements for 1 Pathway Option

**Compensatory Safety Net** *(for students with an IEP or if recommended in a 504 Plan)*

- A score of 65 or higher on any single Regents exam may compensate for a score between 45-54 on a social studies or science Regents exam. A one for one exchange on up to two exams. Students must score 55 on math and ELA exams (or 52-54 through successful appeal) and meet course requirements

### Superintendent Determination

**Option** *(for students with a current IEP only)*



For a student who actively participated in all Regents exams and does not meet graduation requirements through safety-net options, a parent/guardian may submit a written request for the superintendent to conduct a review of other evidence of graduation level proficiency (*required credits and coursework*) in the subject areas in which the student has failed to earn the minimum Regents exam scores. To be eligible for this type of review for math and ELA scores, the student must have completed the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential.

The student and the parent of the student must receive written notice of the superintendent's determination that the student has either met or has not met the requirements for the award of a local diploma.