



FROM: Shannon Tahoe, Interim Commissioner

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the June 2020 Administration of the New York State (NYS) High School Regents Examination Program in Response to COVID-19 Related School and District Closures

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED or "the Department") is cancelling the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program in response to the statewide closures of schools

examinations in order to be issued a diploma. In order 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;
- 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;
- 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 of study leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents Examination but was intending to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ # 5 for additional information).

Pathway Assessments

Any student preparing to take a NYSED-approved +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2020 shall be exempt from the requirements pertaining to passing an approved assessment for the purposes of meeting the diploma requirements. In order to qualify for the exemption 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 Assessment, 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 2020 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.

Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Locally Developed Checkpoint B

August Regents Examinations

The Department has yet to make a decision about the August 2020 administration of Regents Examinations and will issue a separate announcement when such decision is made. However as stated previously, any student who enrolls in summer school to make up failed course credit in a course leading to a Regents Examination and is subsequently granted such credit, shall be exempt from the culminating Regents Examination.

Attached to this memorandum is a list of frequently asked questions that will be updated regularly on NYSED's [COVID-19 Information site](#). Any 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.

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Please continue to monitor NYSED's [COVID-19 Information site](#) for additional guidance as it becomes available.