

Turnkey Guidance for New York State Graduation Requirements

This guidance intends to provide educators with presentation materials to support students' and families' understanding of the current New York State Graduation Requirements and to provide access to additional resources for students and families.

The “ Did You Know” sections provide additional information for school counselors and administrators. Educators may determine whether or not to include the information in your presentations to students and families.

This guidance is provided by the New York State Education Department as a tool for schools and districts to support students' and families' knowledge of our current diploma requirements. This guidance can and should be adjusted to meet the needs of individual learning communities throughout the State.

Presentation Goals:

- Summarize the current New York State Graduation Requirements
- Provide access to additional resources so students and families can advocate for appropriate pathways to exit high school

Presentation Objectives:

- x Explain New York State diploma credit requirements
- x Describe New York State diploma assessment requirements
- x Discuss each of the multiple (+1) pathways
- x Identify each diploma type
- x Compare seals and endorsements
- x Recognize credentials that are not diplomas

Materials Needed:

- x [New York State Graduation Requirements: A Presentation for New York's Students and Families](#)
 - o Consider adding a slide with any additional local diploma requirements (if applicable)
- x Copy of (or digital access to) [New York State Graduation Requirements Understanding Current New York State Diploma Requirements](#) flyer
- x Copy of (or digital access to) [New York State Graduation Requirements: Additional Options](#) flyer
- x Copy of (or digital access to) school or district's diploma requirements
- x Copy of (or digital access to) [NYS Diploma Requirements Tracking Tool](#)

Entertain questions about credit requirements.

Did You Know?

While most students earn a unit diploma credit through successful completion of a unit of study aligned to the commencement level learning standards, there are alternative means for students to earn diploma credit including:

- f Credit by examination
- f Credit by participation
- f Independent study for elective credit
- f Dual or Concurrent enrollment in college coursework

Additional information can be referenced on the [Earning Units of Credit](#) webpage.

Did You Know?

While the rest of New York State awards one unit of diploma credit for one unit of study, the New York City (NYC) Department of Education (DOE) awards one unit of diploma credit for one half unit of study. This results in schools within the NYC DOE awarding four units of credit. Additional information can be referenced on the [NYC DOE's Graduation Requirements](#) webpage.

Stop 4: Assessment Requirements

Advance the presentation to slide 6

Explain:

In addition to the 22 units of credit, students must also meet the NYS assessment requirements to earn a diploma.

To meet the assessment requirements for a Regents or local diploma, students must successfully complete 4 assessments + 1 pathway. All students must pass one assessment (Regents exam or Department approved alternative) in each of the four disciplines (English, mathematics, science, social studies) plus one pathway.

Advance the presentation to slide 7.

Students can access Regents exams by completing a course which culminates in the associated Regents exam. Pathways requirements are as follows:

In order to complete the STEM Pathway, a student must obtain a passing score on one additional Regents exam or Department approved alternative in mathematics or science

In order to complete Option 2 for the CDOS pathway, a student must meet the requirements for one of the [Department approved Pathway Assessments in Career Development and Occupational Studies](#)

If students are not able to earn a passing score of 65 on Regents exams, they may be eligible for appeals, safety nets, and/or Superintendent Determination. Typically, students who avail themselves of these options receive a State Approved local diploma instead of a Regents Diploma. Information about these options can be found in [New York State Graduation Requirements: Additional Options](#) flyer.

Entertain questions about assessment requirements.

Stop 5: Types of Diplomas

Advance the presentation to slide 8.

Explain:

There are currently three types of high school diplomas, Regents, and Regents with Advanced Designation.

The current regulations allow some flexibility in meeting the assessment requirements. These include appealing scores that are within a certain number of points of passing, low pass safety nets for students with disabilities, and the Superintendent determination option for students

Did You Know?

Students may not use the appeal process in order to earn a Regents diploma with advanced designation. Additional information can be referenced in the [Appeal to Graduate with a Lower Score on a Regents Examination](#) (April 17, 2017).

Stop 6: Seals & Endorsements

Advance the presentation to slide 9

Explain:

To acknowledge students who go above and beyond the minimum diploma requirements in certain areas, the current regulations allow for a variety of recognitions to be added to a student's diploma in the form of seals and endorsements.

The technical endorsement can be added to any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with Advanced Designation) for any student who completes a Department-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program including the three-part technical assessment in addition to the minimum diploma requirements.

The Seal of Biliteracy can be added to either the Regents diploma or the Regents with Advanced Designation. This seal recognizes a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. The intent of the NYS Seal of Biliteracy is to encourage the study of languages; identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers; provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission; prepare students with two additional languages.

Stop 7

Stop 8: Local Requirements