

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As of February 2022

Earning a Diploma in NYC

In New York City public schools, students can earn three types of diplomas: a local diploma, a Regents diploma, or an advanced Regents diploma. Each is a valid high school diploma and can be used to demonstrate graduation or enroll in programs after high school, like college and the military. To earn a diploma, students must earn specific course credits (see table to the right) and pass specific Regents exams (see table on the reserve side).

Minimum Credit Requirements

All students must earn **44 total credits across specific subject areas** in order to graduate. Subject-area requirements vary by the type of diploma and may also vary if a student earns an endorsement. Ask your school counselor for more information about credit requirements.

Diploma Endorsements

Students may also earn endorsements to their diplomas. Endorsements recognize the successful completion of additional courses and exams in particular subject areas. Ask your school about the requirements for the following endorsements: Arts, Seal of Biliteracy, Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Honors Designation, Mastery in Math, Mastery in Science, and the Service Seal.

Commencement Credentials

Students can earn two types of commencement credentials: the CDOS commencement credential and the Skills and Achievement commencement credential. These credentials recognize specific achievements, but they are not diplomas. Students who receive commencement credentials may continue to attend school until they earn a high school diploma or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 (whichever occurs first). Due to COVID-19, students who turned 21 within the 2020-21 school year may remain enrolled for 2021-22 in pursuit of a high school diploma, credential, or endorsement. Ask your school counselor for more information about commencement credentials.

Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential	Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential
This credential recognizes students' preparation for entry-level work aligned to the CDOS learning standards. Students complete a career plan, employability profile, and 216 hours of career preparation experiences, including at least 54 hours of work-based learning. The CDOS may be awarded as a sole exiting credential, an endorsement to a diploma, or used to fulfill an exam requirement.	This credential recognizes students' skills and achievements in academic, career development, and other foundations needed for post-school living, learning, and working. This credential may only be awarded to students with severe cognitive disabilities who participate in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Subject Area	Minimum Credit Requirements
English Language Arts (ELA)	8
Social Studies	
Global History	4
U.S. History	2
Participation in Government	1
Economics	1
Math	
Including at least 2 credits of math aligned to standards above Algebra I, such as Geometry or Algebra II	6
Science (including labs)	
Life Science	2
Physical Science	2
Additional Life or Physical Science	2
World Languages (formerly LOTE) ¹	2 for local and Regents diplomas 6 for advanced Regents diploma ²
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	2
Physical Education	
Consistently throughout high school	4
Health	1
Electives	7 for local and Regents diplomas 3 for advanced Regents diploma
Total Credits	44

¹ Students with disabilities exempted from the world languages requirement must still earn 44 course credits required for a diploma through elective credits earned in other subject areas.

² Students completing an Arts or CTE endorsement with the advanced Regents diploma are required to complete only 2 credits of World Languages.

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Minimum Exam Requirements

All students must pass at least **five Regents exams** or State-approved alternatives to Regents exams in order to graduate. Subject-area requirements for exams vary by diploma type and endorsement as described to the right. All students can earn a Regents or advanced Regents diploma. Some students, including students with disabilities, can graduate with a local diploma by earning different exam scores. Contact your school counselor to learn more about Regents exams, State-approved alternatives, and these other exam flexibilities for students who meet specific eligibility requirements:

- Appeals to graduate with low scores on Regents exams
- Safety Net flexibilities for students with disabilities
- Exam waivers for transfer students
- Performance-Based Assessment Tasks (PBATs) for students at State-approved schools

Regents Waivers

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) cancelled multiple Regents administrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, students in grades who intended to take Regents exams during these administration periods **and** met NYSED's eligibility criteria, waived that assessment requirement for the associated diploma, endorsement, or credential. A waived Regents exam counts as a score of 65 toward exam requirements.

Toward College & Career Readiness

Coursework, exam scores, and activities outside the classroom can support students in working towards their goals for after high school.

Coursework: Students can prepare for college-level work by taking higher-level courses in high school. These courses may include:

- 8-credit course sequence in math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- 8-credit course sequence in science, including Living Environment, Chemistry, and Physics
- Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Honors courses
- Courses for college credit, such as College Now or CUNY Early College

Exams: High exam scores can help students avoid taking remedial classes in college. For CUNY, students may meet the college readiness requirement based on certain test scores. See the CUNY Testing FAQs (<http://bit.ly/CUNYReady>) to learn more.

³ Students completing an Arts or CTE endorsement with the advanced Regents diploma are not required to take the World Languages exam. Likewise, students whose IEP indicates that a disability negatively affects their ability to learn a language are not required to take the World Languages exam to receive an advanced Regents diploma.

Regents Exam	Local diploma (eligible students only)	Regents diploma	Advanced Regents diploma
English Language Arts (ELA)	55+	65+	65+
Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History • Global History & Geography 	55+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II 	55+ on one math exam	65+ on one math exam	65+ on all three math exams
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Environment • Earth Science • Chemistry • Physics 	55+ on one science exam	65+ on one science exam	65+ on Living Environment <i>and</i> one other science exam
World Languages (formerly LOTE)	<i>Not Required</i>	<i>Not Required</i>	65+ on one World Languages exam ³
+1 option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional Regents exam • State-approved +1 option 	<i>Requirements vary</i>	<i>Requirements vary</i>	<i>Requirements vary</i>
Total Exams	5	5	9