



Department of
Education

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Brief Overview of NY State Graduation Requirements

A Resource for NYCDOE School Staff

Note: This document is intended to provide a brief summary of NY State graduation requirements. It is **not** an official resource for NY State Graduation Requirements. For official information on NY State graduation requirements, please visit the New York State Education Department Commissioner's Regulations on Diploma Requirements:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html>

Overview of Diploma Types

DIPLOMA TYPES	STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
• Regents Diploma	ALL students (phasing in)
• Advanced Regents Diploma	ALL students
• Local Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students entering grade 9 in 2007 or earlier (phasing out - specific exam requirements differ based on year of entry) • Students with disabilities (safety net eligibility)
• IEP Diploma	Students with disabilities who meet IEP diploma eligibility requirements ¹

DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS	STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
• Honors	ALL students (Regents or Advanced Regents Diploma)
• Career & Technical Education	Students enrolled in State-approved CTE programs (Regents, Advanced Regents, or Local Diploma)
• Arts	Students enrolled in approved Arts programs (Regents, Advanced Regents, or Local Diploma)

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- Earn (at least) **44 required credits**¹
- Pass required Regents exams – note: specific exam requirements vary by diploma type¹

¹Note: Students with disabilities earning IEP diplomas may have different requirements in accordance with their IEPs. For detailed information on IEP diploma eligibility and requirements, as well as exam requirements for all diploma types and diploma endorsements, please see: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/GraduationRequirements/default.htm>

Overview of Diploma Types

DIPLOMA TYPE	ELIGIBLE STUDENTS	DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS
Regents Diploma	All Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn (at least) 44 required credits Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams¹
Advanced Regents Diploma	All Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet all requirements for a Regents Diploma (see above) AND Score 65 or above on additional exams in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science (note: one in Life Science and one in Physical Science) Mathematics (note: one or two additional exams) Language Other Than English (LOTE)
Local Diploma	Students Entering Grade 9 prior to 2008: Note: students entering grade 9 in 2008 and beyond must meet Regents diploma requirements, unless they are eligible for the local diploma safety net provision outlined below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn (at least) 44 required credits AND Meet one of the following exam requirements (according to year of entry to grade 9):
	• In 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 65 on 4 out of 5 required Regents exams and 55 on 1 out of 5
	• In 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 65 on 3 out of 5 required Regents exams and 55 on 2 out of 5
	• In 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 65 on 2 out of 5 required Regents exams and 55 on 3 out of 5
	• Prior to 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 55 or above on 5 required Regents exams
Students with Disabilities (Safety Net) who:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have IEPs Have Section 504 plans that specify safety net eligibility Declassified while in grades 8-12 whose last IEP specified safety net eligibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn (at least) 44+ required credits AND Score 55 or above on 5 required Regents exams (note: each of the 5 Regents exams must be taken at least once) OR Pass 6 Regents Competency Tests (note: RCTs are currently available to students with disabilities entering grade 9 before 2011)
IEP Diploma	Students with Disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon reaching the end of the year in which the student turns 21 OR Upon application of the student or parent/guardian at the completion of at least 12 years of schooling, excluding kindergarten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved goals of the student's IEP, as stipulated by the Commissioner <p>Note: Students obtaining an IEP diploma remain eligible to attend school until earning a high school diploma or until the end of the school year of the student's 21st birthday, whichever is earlier.</p>

¹Required Regents exams are: English, Global History & Geography, US History & Government, Science, and Mathematics
 Note: English Language Learners work towards Regents, Advanced Regents, and Local diplomas, and must receive appropriate services to acquire and develop English language skills and meet standards in core subjects.

High School Graduation Requirements – Course Credit

Commissioner’s Regulations state that a **unit of credit** is earned by mastery of the learning outcomes set forth in a New York State-developed or locally developed **syllabus** for a given high school subject, after a student has had the opportunity to complete a **unit of study** in the given subject matter area.

- **Syllabus:** a document stating the expected learning outcomes, including the goals, objectives, concepts, skills and understandings in a given subject
- **Unit of study:** at least 180 minutes of instruction per week throughout the school year, or the equivalent

Subject Area	Credits Required for High School Diploma
English	8 credits
Social Studies	8 credits (including 4 Global Studies, 2 US History, 1 US Government, and 1 Economics)
Mathematics	6 credits
Science	6 credits (minimum 2 in Life Science and 2 in Physical Science)
Foreign Language	2 credits (Note: 6 credits needed for Advanced Regents Diploma)
Fine Arts	2 credits
Health	1 credit
Physical Education	4 credits
Electives	7 credits
TOTAL	44 credits

Note: NY State Commissioner’s Regulations require students to earn at least 22 units of credit and pass 5 Regents exams to receive a high school diploma. NYC public schools calculate credits towards graduation using a *semester-based* model, in which the State’s 22 unit of credit requirement is equated to 44 credits.

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Types of Diploma Endorsements - Overview

DIPLOMA TYPE	ELIGIBLE STUDENTS	DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS
Honors	All students	Achieving an average of 90 or above on the required Regents exams
CTE (Career & Technical Education) Endorsed Diploma	Students enrolled in approved CTE programs (note: CTE-endorsements are applicable to Regents, Advanced Regents, and Local diplomas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn (at least) 44+ required credits AND • Meet exam requirements for Local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma (note: LOTE requirements for earning an Advanced Regents diploma may be met by earning 2 instead of 6 course credits, and the foreign language Regents exam is not required) • Successfully complete all requirements of an approved CTE sequence, including a technical assessment and work-based learning and employability requirements
Arts Endorsed Diploma	Students enrolled in approved Arts programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn (at least) 44 credits AND • Meet exam requirements for Local, Regents, or Advanced Regents Diploma (note: LOTE requirements for earning an Advanced Regents diploma may be met by earning 2 instead of 6 course credits, and the foreign language Regents exam is not required) • Successfully complete all requirements of an approved sequence in the ARTS, including required assessment and projects