



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Leaders
Charter Schools Leaders
Participating Religious and Independent School Leaders
Regional Information Center Directors
Data Warehouse Primary and Secondary Project Managers

From: Rose M. LeRoy, Director *Rose M. LeRoy*

Date: November 6, 2020

Subject: Reporting of Student Exemptions for the January 2021 Regents Examinations in SIRS in Response to COVID-19

This memorandum is to provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) (or “reporting entities”) with guidance on reporting student exemptions from the January 2021 administrations of the Regents Examinations in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS).

On November 5, 2020, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) announced the cancellation of the January 2021 administration of Regents Examinations in response to COVID-19 and provided guidance on which students could be exempted from Regents Examination requirements for diploma-granting purposes.

Standard Achieved Code for Reporting Exemptions

The Department will continue to implement the Standard Achieved Code of “86,” previously introduced for the exemption of June and August 2020 Regents Examinations as outlined in the [June 4, 2020 memorandum](#), to report student exemptions from taking and passing the January 2021 Regents Examinations. These exemptions must be reported in SIRS with the Assessment Measure Code associated with the course of study in which the student earned credit and a Standard Achieved Code of “86.” No other Standard Achieved Code may be used to report these exemptions.

Recording of Exemptions on Students’ Transcripts

No score should be recorded on a student’s transcript for examinations for which the student was granted an exemption due to COVID-19-related cancellation of the January 2021

Regents Examinations. Student transcripts should reflect the examination name and a score of “E” for exempt for those students meeting the eligibility requirements for such an exemption outlined in the [November 5, 2020 memorandum](#) from the Department.

Reporting of Regents Examination Results in NYS Report Cards

Guidance on the reporting of Annual Regents Examination and Total Cohort Regents Examination data in 2020-21 NYS Report Cards will be forthcoming.

Use of Regents Examinations in Accountability Calculations

Guidance on the use of exemptions to January 2021 Regents Examinations when calculating future accountability outcomes will be forthcoming.

Impact of Exemptions on Accelerated Middle-School Students

Students in grades 7 and 8 may take a Regents Examination in math in lieu of the grades 7 and 8 New York Testing Program (NYSTP) Mathematics assessments. Students in grade 8 may take a Regents Examination in science in lieu of the Grade 8 Science Test. Accelerated students who were exempted from a January 2021 Regents Examination in mathematics or science due to COVID-19 will not have that assessment “banked” for use at the secondary level for accountability or total cohort assessment reporting purposes.

We sincerely appreciate the work everyone is involved in every day to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. I want you to know the Office of Information and Reporting Services is here to provide support. Questions about:

- SIRS Assessment Measure Codes should be directed to your [Regional Level 1/Big 5](#) center.
- How to record exemptions on a student’s transcript should be directed to the vendor support personnel at your [Regional Level 1/Big 5](#) center. If your student management system (SMS) is not supported by a Regional Level 1/Big 5 center, please contact the SMS vendor for support.
- Accountability should be directed to the [Office of Accountability](#).
- Exemptions from Regents Examinations should be directed to the [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#).
- SIRS or SIRS data reporting should be directed to the Office of Information and Reporting Services at [Data Support](#) or 518-474-7965.