

Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure

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Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements

1. Are students exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning on taking during the June 2020 or August 2020 test administration in order to meet diploma requirements?

In order to meet diploma requirements, students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning to take in June 2020 or August 2020:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and by the scheduled date of the June 2020 or August 2020 Regents Examination will have earned credit in such course of study;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, and has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework;
- 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 leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents but was intending to take the test in June or August to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ #5 for more information).

2. How will students earn credit in courses that were interrupted due to the COVID-19 closures preventing them from completing the unit of study requirements in Commissioner's Regulations?

[Department Guidance issued March 13, 2020](#) outlined the requirements for granting diploma credit for courses interrupted by the COVID-19 closures. In the event that extended closure interferes with a school or district's ability to provide the full unit of study by the end of the school year, either in face-to-face instruction or through other methods,

the student should be granted the diploma credit as long as the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.

3. In order for a student to be exempt from a June 2020 or August Regents examination, must the student have earned a unit of credit in the course?

Yes, unless the student is in grade 7 and is not eligible for diploma credit. In such cases the student has to have met the standards addressed for the provided coursework, in order to be eligible for an exemption.

4. If a student fails a course, in the 2019-2020 school year, leading to a Regents examination and enrolls in a summer school make up program in summer 2020 and subsequently earns diploma credit, is s/he eligible for an exemption to such examination?

Yes. As long as the student successfully makes up the credit in summer of 2020, the student can be considered exempt from the culminating Regents Exam. If a student does not successfully make up the credit in summer 2020, the student is no longer eligible for the Regents Examination exemption and must pass the associated Regents Examination in order to meet diploma requirements.

5. Question 1 above states that a student is eligible for an exemption if s/he “was intending to take the test in June or August to achieve a passing score.” How do I know if a student “intended” to take a Regents Examination?

Schools can apply the “intended to take a Regents Examination” eligibility requirement under one of the following circumstances:

- the student informed the school that s/he wished to retake the examination; or
- the student was receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the examination; or
- the student took the examination in June 2019, August 2019, or January 2020 in an attempt to pass or better his/her score.

6. How will students who are granted exemptions to exams meet assessment requirements for graduation?

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). For example, a student who was enrolled in English Language Arts (ELA) 11 and was scheduled to take the examination in June 2020 does not need to meet the ELA assessment requirement for a local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma.

7. Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be exempted from a science Regents Exam?

No. Hands on laboratory experiences missed because of extended school closure or student absence due to COVID-19 do not preclude a student from being exempt from the corresponding Science Regents Examination.

8. Can a district exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B Languages Other Than English (LOTE) examination in order for students to meet the requirements for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?

A district may exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B examination if the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject by the end of the 2019-20 school year.

9. May a student who is exempted from a Regents Examination due to COVID-19 be admitted to future administrations of the Regents exam?

Yes. Schools/districts shall provide opportunities for students **who have not subsequently earned a diploma** to attempt Regents exams in subsequent administration periods, if students so choose.

10. Can simulated or virtual laboratory experiences and satisfactory lab reports completed during the COVID-19 closures be used towards fulfilling the 1,200 minute laboratory requirement for students who take an associated science Regents Examination during a future Regents test administration?

Yes, simulated and virtual laboratory experiences and satisfied lab reports completed during the COVID-19 closures may be used towards fulfilling the 1,200 minute laboratory requirement for students who take an associated science Regents Examination during a future test administration. During periods of COVID-19 closures **only**, simulated or virtual laboratory experiences can be used toward the 1,200 minute requirement for all students.

11. Are students enrolled in extended (stretch) courses ending after June 2020 eligible for an exemption?

No. Exemptions from Regents Examination requirements for a diploma only apply to those students who were expected to be taking a Regents Examination in June 2020. The provisions for exemptions do not apply to students who are in extended courses and not expected to finish the course until 2021.

12. Are students enrolled in make-up courses or programs eligible for an exemption?

Yes. If the following conditions apply, students enrolled in make-up courses or programs would be eligible for an exemption:

- student was previously enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents exam, but failed or was not able to complete the course; and
- student was enrolled in a make-up course or program during the 2019-2020 school year or summer 2020; and
- student intended to take the associated Regents Examination in June or August 2020; and
- student earns credit in the previously failed or incomplete course by June 2020 or the end of summer 2020 (after receiving summer instruction).

13. Are transfer students eligible for the Regents Examination exemptions?

If a high school granted transfer credit for a course that typically culminates in a Regents Examination in the school granting credit and the student intended to take the Regents Examination in June 2020 or August 2020, the student would be eligible for the exemption.

Example 1: A student transfers from a private high school that did not require Regents exams to a NYS public high school in July 2020. The public high school awards transfer credit for US History & Government. The student intended to take the Regents Examination in August 2020. The student is eligible for the US History & Government Regents Examination exemption.

Example 2: A student transfers to a NYS high school in July from an out-of-state high school. The NYS high school awards transfer credit for Algebra I. The student intended to take the Regents Examination in August 2020. The student is eligible for the Algebra I Regents Examination exemption.

14. Are homeschool students eligible for Regents Examination exemptions?

No. Homeschool students are not enrolled in the high school, and do not earn diploma credit, which is a necessary component of eligibility for an exemption to a Regents Examination due to COVID-19. Homeschool students wishing to take a Regents Examination may be admitted to such examination during the next available examination administration.

Homeschool students intending to use the Regents examinations for the required annual assessment are not exempt from such annual assessment. Section 100.10(h) of Commissioner's Regulations that requires annual assessment for students participating in a program of home instruction was amended by the Board of Regents at their May 2020 meeting, to provide that an alternative narrative evaluation, in lieu of a standardized annual assessment, shall be permitted for all grades in the 2019-20 school year due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to an Executive Order for the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information regarding these emergency regulations is available on the [NYSED website](#).

15. If a student or parent¹ expresses the intention of the student to take a Regents exam, even if such intention was not in the student's educational plan, is the student still entitled to the Regents Examination exemption?

If the student has met all the eligibility requirements for the Regents Examination exemption, the district must honor the student or parent confirmation of intention. In such cases, the district should discuss the implications of such decision with the student and parent to ensure the exemption is in the best interest of the student. Districts must inform the student and parent that the receipt of a diploma terminates the student's right to a free and appropriate public education.

16. Will the process for filing for appeals and Superintendent Determinations be the same for the 2019-2020 school year as in prior years?

Yes.

¹ For the purpose of this document the term parent shall mean parent or person in parental relation

Earning Course Credit

17. Can students earn credit for courses that did not meet the unit of study (180-minute/week) requirement specified in Commissioner's Regulation 100.1(a)?

Yes, per [Guidance #2: Additional Guidance to Schools from NYSED](#), any student who achieves the learning outcomes for a course of study should earn the applicable course/diploma credit without regard to the 180-minute/week unit of study requirement in Commissioner's Regulations Section 100.1.

Further, in the event that extended closure interferes with a school's or a district's ability to provide the full unit of study by the end of the school year, either in face-to-face instruction or through other methods, as long as the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework, the student shall be granted the diploma credit.

18. Can students earn diploma credit LOTE prior to grade 9 without successfully passing a locally developed Checkpoint A exam?

If the principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, determines that the student has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework leading to the Checkpoint A LOTE exam, the district may choose to waive the examination requirement and grant the student their first unit of diploma credit in LOTE.

19. Can students earn credit by examination through the Regents Examination exemptions?

No. Students cannot earn credit by examination using the exemptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

20. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students earning diploma credit through accelerated coursework in grade 8?

Yes. Any student in grade 8 enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents Examination who has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework shall be granted an exemption from the examination and shall be granted the applicable diploma credit.

21. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students in grade 7 who are taking a course culminating in a Regents Examination but cannot earn diploma credit?

Yes. A student in grade 7 enrolled in a Regents level course who has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework is eligible for an exemption of the culminating Regents Exam. While this student is not eligible for diploma credit as they are not yet in grade 8, the student is considered to have fulfilled the graduation assessment requirement in the applicable subject.

22. If a district includes Regents Examination scores in the calculation of the final course grade, what does the Department recommend districts use in lieu of the Regents Examination score?

The NYSED does not encourage the use of Regents Examination grades in final course grades as Regents Examination scores are scaled scores and not percentage scores typically used for course averages. Please see the [2019 Edition School Administrator's](#)

[Manual for Regents Examinations](#), page 32. Grading policies are determined by each local Board of Education. This includes any decisions to use Regents Examination scores in final course grade calculations. Districts may need to amend local grading policies if they use Regents Examination grades as part of students' final grade average.

Pathways, Department Approved Alternative Exams & Technical Assessments

23. Can exemptions to +1 Pathway Assessments be granted?

Yes. Any student preparing to take a +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2020 or August 2020 shall be granted an exemption to such assessment for the purposes of meeting diploma requirements. In order to qualify for the exemption to the graduation assessment requirement, 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, 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 or August to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ # 5 for additional information);
- 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 or August to achieve a passing score.

24. Can a student be exempt from the Department-approved CDOS assessment (CDOS, option 2)?

An exemption from the CDOS +1 pathway assessment can be given if a determination has been made that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills outlined in the commencement level CDOS learning standards, and the student is meeting or has met the expectations of the course taken in preparation for such examination, if applicable.

25. Can a student be exempt from the graduation assessment requirement of a Department-approved alternative examination?

All Department-approved alternative examinations are also considered +1 Pathway exams. Students can be exempt from such examination requirement if one of the following conditions have been met:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Department-Approved Alternative Examination and by the end of the 2019-20 school year will have earned credit in such course of study; or

- The student was previously enrolled in the course leading to an applicable examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated examination but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ #5 for more information).

26. Can a student be exempt from the graduation assessment requirement for the three-part CTE Technical Assessment leading to the CTE+1 Pathway?

Yes. Students enrolled in NYSED approved CTE programs culminating in a CTE pathway who have will have earned the applicable program credit by the end of the 2019-20 school year and intended to take the CTE +1 pathway assessment are exempt from the assessment for graduation purposes.

27. If a student is exempt from the three-part CTE Technical Assessment for graduation purposes, will such student still get the technical endorsement on his/her diploma?

In the case of the CTE Technical Endorsement, districts may grant an exemption of the three-part technical assessment for students scheduled to complete their technical studies and who have been successful thus far in their coursework. Consideration should be given to length of program, percent of program unfinished, and whether the student has demonstrated the technical skills and knowledge to warrant such endorsement. Understand that the 3-part technical assessment shall be exempted for the purpose of meeting the +1 pathway to a diploma; however, districts must make an individual determination of knowledge and skill attainment in granting the Technical Endorsement.

28. Can a student be exempt from the unfinished requirements for the CDOS credential and the CDOS +1 Pathway?

Students who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2019-20 school year and have not met all of the requirements due to COVID-19 may be granted the CDOS Commencement Credential and fulfill the CDOS +1 Pathway, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

29. Can a student be exempted from the CDOS credential requirements if students are continuing their high school education beyond the 2019-2020 school year?

Students may be exempted from requirements that were missed due to COVID-19 closures; however, students must fulfill any requirements scheduled or planned for subsequent school years.

30. Does the exemption from the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements include a waiver from the requirements for a student to have completed a career plan and at least one employability profile?

Yes. Students who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2019-20 school year and have not met all of the requirements due to COVID-19, including the requirements for the career plan and employability profile, may be granted the CDOS Commencement Credential, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has

determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

31. For students awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential through a waiver of unfinished requirements due to COVID-19, can the credential be used to meet the CDOS +1 Pathway requirement for a local or Regents diploma, in order to earn a diploma through a Superintendent's Determination, or as a standalone credential?

Yes. Students who are awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without having met all of the requirements may use the credential:

- for the purpose of meeting the CDOS +1 Pathway to a diploma;
- as their only exiting credential, provided the student:
 - has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere; or
 - has reached the end of the school year in which they attain the age of 21; or
- for students with disabilities, for the purpose of meeting the English language arts and/or Mathematics Regents Examination eligibility conditions for the Superintendent's Determination option. (Refer to FAQ #28 and 41 for additional information).

32. Will Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) exams be administered this spring?

AP: The College Board plans to offer an online examination that students can complete at home. If students need mobile tools and/or connectivity to review AP content and to take the exam, they can reach out directly to the College Board to [Request Student Access to Remote AP Learning and Assessments](#). Additional information on the administration of AP exams can be referenced on the [College Board](#)'s website.

IB: May 2020 IB exams have been cancelled. May session students have the option to sit for the IB exams in November 2020. Additional information on the administration of IB exams can be referenced on the [International Baccalaureate Organization](#)'s website.

Advanced Designation & Endorsements

33. Can students exempted from Regents exams still earn a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation?

Yes. Any students who have Regents Exams exempted due to the cancellation of the June or August 2020 examination administration are not required to pass such Regents exams necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Example: A student is scheduled to take the Algebra II Regents Examination and the ELA Regents Examination in June 2020. S/he has passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Such student will not be required to pass ELA and Algebra II but will still earn the Regents with Advanced Designation diploma if all other requirements are met.

34. If students were unable to take a locally developed Checkpoint B Examination to complete the LOTE sequence toward advanced designation, can the student be exempt from the assessment?

The school or district may grant an exemption to the LOTE checkpoint B examination requirement for any student scheduled to take such examination in June **or August** 2020 in order to meet the requirements for an advanced diploma as long as the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject prior to the end of the school year.

35. Can students earn the mastery endorsement(s) in math and/or science if they are exempt from a Math or Science Regents Examination needed for such endorsement?

Yes. While no actual score would be given, students who are exempted from a math and/or a science Regents Examination and pass at least two additional Regents Examinations in math with scores of 85 or above or 2 additional Regents Exams in Science with an 85 or above would be entitled to a mastery in math and/or science on their diploma.

Example 1: A student has taken Algebra I and earned a 90, Geometry and earned an 87 and received an exemption to the Algebra II Regents Exam. This student has 2 exams with an 85 or above and a third examination exemption and would qualify for a mastery in mathematics.

Example 2: A senior was enrolled in physics and has successfully earned course credit. She received a Regents Examination exemption. She earned a 90 on her Living Environment Regents exam, a 96 on her Earth Science Regents exam, and an 84 on her Chemistry Regents exam. Since this senior had two science Regents Examination scores above 85 and the Physics Examination score waived, she is deemed to have met the requirements for the mastery endorsement.

Example 3: A student has passed the Algebra 1 Regents Examination with an 85 and is now enrolled in Geometry and will be exempt from the Examination in June 2020. This student will go on to Algebra II in the next school year. If she earns an 85 or above on Algebra II, she will have 2 exams in math with an 85 or better and 1 exemption and will be entitled to the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement when she graduates.

36. Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions?

Yes. While exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for any diploma type, they would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement.

For example, a student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following examination scores:

- English Regents, 89
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Living Environment Regents, 90
- US History Regents, waived (COVID-19 examination exemption)
- Earth Science Regents, 89 (+1 pathway)

Since the average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma type (not including the waived exam) equals 90, the student is entitled to the honors endorsement.

37. Students cannot earn the honors endorsement if they use more than two Department-approved alternatives. Are exempted exams included in the number of “Department-approved alternatives”?

No. Exempted exams are simply removed from the calculation for the honors endorsement. Students may still use a maximum of two Department-approved alternatives.

38. Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions but have additional scored Regents exams?

Yes. Exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for any diploma type; however such exams would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement. If students have additional exams, the combination that most benefits students may be used.

For example, a student has the following Regents exams:

- English Regents, 89
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Living Environment Regents, 90
- Global History Regents, 68
- US History Regents, waived (COVID-19 examination exemption)
- Earth Science Regents, 89 (+1 pathway)

In this scenario, since the student has 6 assessments and only needs 5 to meet the assessment requirements for the Regents diploma, the Global History Regents could be ignored. The average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma type (not including the waived exam) equals 90; the student is entitled to the honors endorsement.

39. How will students fulfill unfinished requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy?

The department will issue separate guidance and a full set of FAQs to address flexibility in earning the seal.

40. Is a student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2020, and intended to retake the Regents in June 2020 or August 2020 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for the Regents Examination exemption?

No. Any student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2020 is not eligible for the exam exemption.

Students with Disabilities / English Language Learners

41. For students with disabilities that meet the requirements to earn a Local Diploma through a Superintendent Determination and have been working toward earning a CDOS Credential, may a district waive the required 216 hours of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning (at least 54 hours of which must be work-based learning)?

Yes. Students with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2019-20 school year may be awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without

having met all of the requirements, for purposes of eligibility for the superintendent determination option, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

42. If a student with a disability or English Language Learner has access to safety nets or appeals leading to a local diploma, should schools consider exempted exams to represent a score of 55 or 65?

All waived exams for all students should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making safety net diploma determinations, except for purposes of the compensatory safety net (See Question 43). However, no score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

43. Students with a disability have access to the compensatory safety net option where a 65 or above on one exam can compensate for a 45-54 on another exam. Can an exempted Regents Examination be used to compensate a lower Regents Examination score (45-54 on science and social studies Regents Exams only) using the compensatory safety net option?

No. A Regents Examination exemption cannot be used to compensate for the score below 65 on a different Regents examination.

44. If a student with a disability previously met assessment requirements for a local diploma using safety net options, but intended to retake one or more of the Regents examinations in June or August 2020 in attempt to achieve a score of 65 or higher, can s/he use the exemption from such examinations to earn a Regents diploma?

Yes. Any student who previously earned diploma credit in a course culminating in a Regents exam, earned a score lower than 65 on the associated Regents, and intended to retake the exam in June 2020 is eligible for the exemption.

45. Since the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) is not being administered this year, can high school students with disabilities who were going to take the NYSSA during the 2019-20 school year still be awarded the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential?

Yes. Due to the cancellation of the NYSSA for the 2019-20 school year, a student with a severe cognitive disability who was scheduled to take or was in the process of taking the secondary-level NYSSA during the 2019-20 school year, and is exiting from high school in June or August 2020, may be awarded the [Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential](#) as long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

Recording Students Scores

46. How should schools reflect examination exemptions on a student's transcript?

Student transcripts should not reflect a score for any examination where the student is granted an exemption.

47. How should exemptions be recorded in the student management system?

NYSED will develop and disseminate guidance on how schools/districts should record the exemptions from examination requirements in their student management systems. The Department will develop new codes for reporting “COVID-19 Exemptions” and provide further guidance.

48. If a student with an exempted exam decides to take the exam during future administration dates, would the exemption or the scored exam be reported?

While all scored exams will be reported to the NYSED and included on students’ permanent records, for the purpose of diploma type and endorsements, students can use the exam scores that most benefit them.

Post-graduation or Exiting High School

49. Under current regulations, when a student(s) takes and passes a Regents Examination but does not earn a High School diploma and then decides to obtain his/her High School equivalency diploma, they are exempt from the corresponding subject sub-test of the Test Assessment of Secondary Completion (TASC) exam. Given the changes that would exempt students from Regents exams, how will student(s) who are deemed to be exempt from one or more Regents exams but later seek their High School equivalency diploma be addressed?

The Department will treat such students in the same way as any other student. Those students who produce a transcript showing that they were exempt from one or more Regents exams will also be exempt from that section (sub-test) of the TASC. **The requirement that all students must take and pass at least one subject sub-test of the TASC, regardless of the number of Regents exams they are given credit for, will be waived during the time period of the COVID-19 emergency for students who meet the age eligibility requirements.**

50. If for any reason, students leave school without earning a diploma, can they re-enroll in the future to attempt to complete any requirements needed?

All students are entitled to a free public education until either they receive a local or Regents Diploma, or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years of age.

51. If a student is on track to take an industry credential examination in June 2020 and graduates due to an exemption to the diploma requirements, can that student return to school to complete his/her technical preparation and take such examination in the future?

The Department will provide guidance to address this issue in the near future and will release additional information when available.

52. Are students in AHSEP (Alternative High School Equivalency Program) programs eligible for Regents Examination exemptions?

Students who previously earned diploma credit for a course that culminated in a Regents exam, but have not yet passed the Regents exam, and are currently (2019-2020 school year) enrolled in and passing associated content in an AHSEP program, are eligible for the

Regents Examination exemptions. Per FAQ #49, these exemptions can then be applied to the Regents-TASC pathway to an HSE diploma.

53. Will students who were planning to take TASC sub-tests, all of which were canceled when TASC test centers were required to close due to COVID-19, be provided with any exemptions from TASC testing?

Yes. Students who had been planning to take a TASC sub-test(s) when all TASC test centers were closed and no testing was permitted and who meet the following criteria, will be exempt from taking previously required corresponding TASC subject sub-tests:

- Enrolled in an approved Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Program (AHSEP) or an approved Adult Education Preparation Program (AEPP) during the relevant time period; and
- Previously took and passed a combination of at least three Regents examinations and/or applicable TASC or GED subject sub-tests; and
- For the remaining two sub-tests, the student achieves a passing grade in the corresponding approved high school equivalency classes with standards-based curriculum and applicable assessments.

Accountability

54. How will exemptions to Regents Exams for June 2020 impact school and district accountability?

NYSED will not make high school accountability determinations for the 2019-20 school year based on the performance of the 2016 accountability cohort (i.e., the students who first entered grade 9 in September 2016). Instead all schools and districts will maintain in the 2020-21 school year the same accountability status that the school or district was assigned for the 2019-20 school year.

55. How will a school or district's accountability status be determined for future graduation cohorts if students were exempted in June 2020 from examinations used as accountability measures?

NYSED will work with the United States Department of Education to determine a methodology for meeting federal accountability requirements and making accountability determinations beginning with the 2017 accountability cohort (i.e., students who first entered grade 9 anytime between and including July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018). More information on this issue will be forthcoming.

Any additional 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.

Note: As additional questions arise, they will be added to this document on an ongoing basis.

Revision Log

05/18/20 **New** questions: 10-16, 30, 38, 40, 44-45, 52-53
 Amended questions: 1, 3-5, 9, 23-24, 31, 33-34, 49