



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

Procedure for Evaluation and Approval of Assessments for use as Regents Alternatives and +1 Pathway Assessments

The New York State Board of Regents has approved regulations that provide all students multiple ways to meet assessments requirements for graduation. Under 8 NYCRR §§100.2 (mm) and 100.5(a)(5)(i)(f), students have the option to meet graduation requirements by passing four required Regents examinations (or approved alternatives) *and* a pathway assessment. In order to ensure that Regents Alternatives and pathway assessments are of sufficient rigor, meet requirements for validity and reliability, and are available to all New York State students, the Department must review and approve assessments before they can be used as approved alternatives or pathway assessments.

The New York State Education Department is currently accepting Applications for Consideration of Regents Alternatives in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Pathways (i.e., “+1 option”) assessments in Career and Technical Education (CTE), Languages Other Than English (LOTE), and the Arts will also be accepted. Information on the application and processes follows.

Regents Alternatives

In accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (8 NYCRR 100.2 (f)), assessments which measure an equivalent level of knowledge and skill may be substituted for the Regents examinations in Global History and Geography, Global History and Geography II, United States History and Government, Comprehensive English and English Language Arts (Common Core), mathematics, mathematics (Common Core), and the sciences. The Department currently has a number of [approved alternative assessments](#) to the Regents Exams in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Under this application process, the Department will consider additional assessments as alternatives to the Regents examinations listed above.

Pathway Assessments

A “pathway assessment” (also known as the “+1 option” in the State) may consist of an assessment in CTE, LOTE or the Arts approved by the commissioner pursuant to 8 NYCRR §100.2(mm). Approved alternative assessments allow students additional opportunities to meet graduation requirements through external, standardized assessments that provide evidence of student achievement on State learning standards. The Commissioner has also approved a [number of pathway assessments in Arts and CTE](#). Under this application process, the Department will consider additional pathway assessments in the Arts or in CTE as well as pathway assessments in LOTE.

Please note that all Regents Alternatives may be used as a Pathways +1 option. However, an assessment cannot be used as both a Regents Alternative assessment and a Pathway +1 option.

Criteria for Approval for Regents Alternatives

To be considered for approval, proposed alternative assessments must meet all criteria set forth in Commissioner's Regulations 100.2(f):

1. Alternative assessments shall measure the State learning standards for the respective content area.
2. Alternative assessments shall be at least as rigorous as the corresponding required State assessment.
3. Alternative assessments shall be consistent with technical criteria validity, reliability, and fairness in testing.
4. Alternative assessments shall be developed by an entity other than a local school or school district.
5. Alternative assessments shall be available for use by any school of school district in New York State.
6. Alternative assessments shall be administered under secure conditions approved by the Commissioner.

Criteria for Approval for CTE, LOTE, or Arts Pathway Assessments

To be considered for approval, CTE, LOTE, and Arts pathway assessments must meet all criteria set forth in Commissioner's Regulations 100.2(mm):

1. Pathway assessments shall measure student progress on the State learning standards for their respective content area(s). For CTE and LOTE¹, the level of rigor should be equivalent to a Regents examination or alternative assessment approved pursuant to 8 NYCRR §100.2(f) and the level of rigor for the Arts should be at or above the Commencement General Education Level (C-GEL)².
2. Pathway assessments shall be recognized or accepted by postsecondary institutions, experts in the field, and/or employers in areas related to the assessment.
3. Pathway assessments shall be aligned with existing knowledge and practice in the field(s) related to their respective content area(s) and shall be reviewed at least every five years and updated as necessary.
4. Pathway assessments shall be consistent with technical criteria for validity, reliability, and fairness in testing.
5. Pathway assessments shall be developed by an entity other than a local school or school district.
6. Pathway assessments shall be available for use by any school or school district in New York State.
7. Pathway assessments shall be administered under secure conditions approved by the Commissioner.

¹ For LOTE assessments to meet criteria #1, they must align with either the Checkpoint B or Checkpoint C standards in Languages other than English.

² For additional information on Arts standards, please go to <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/arts/artsls.html>.

Procedure for Submitting Assessments for Approval Pursuant to 8 NYCRR §100.2(f) and 8 NYCRR §100.2(mm)

1. **Collection:** There are three mechanisms under which the Department will consider assessments for approval (listed below). Regardless of the form of data collection, the petitioning organization must submit information through an Application for Consideration.
 - o **District Collection:** A district would collect the necessary information using publicly available information and submit it to the State, and/or
 - o **Vendor-Provided:** Vendor provides the information.
2. **Review:** Each application for consideration will be reviewed by a combination of a content expert in the program area and a technical assessment expert.
3. **Follow-Up:** Based on their review of the Application for Consideration, the reviewing experts may submit a list of specific follow-up questions and clarifications to the petitioning organization.
4. **Approval:** Once all criteria are met, the expert reviewers will make a recommendation to the Commissioner of Education. The final decision to approve the alternative assessment will be made by the Commissioner. Once approved, the submitter will be notified and information about the assessment will be added to the list of approved alternative assessments kept by the Office of State Assessment.

Interested applicants may request an application by forwarding an e-mail request in the following format to PathwayAssessment@nysed.gov

Petitioning Organization: _____
Organization Contact Name: _____
E-mail Address _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____
Assessment Name: _____ Test Code if Applicable: _____
Assessment Type – Choose one:

- Regents Alternative (Specify Discipline)
- CTE Pathway (Specify Discipline)
- Arts Pathway (Specify Discipline)
- Languages other than English (Specify Language)

Applications for Consideration will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. The process will take up to three months for the review and approval before the assessment is added to the list of approved alternative assessments.