



BUREAU CHIEF
Office of State Assessment

June 2021

TO: Principals of Public and Religious Schools
Leaders of Charter and Independent Schools

FROM: Clara DeSorbo *Clara DeSorbo*

SUBJECT: Administration of the June 2021 Regents Examinations

As explained in the March 2, 2021 memorandum [Regents Exams Required by USDE to be Offered in June / August 2021](#), only the four Regents Examinations listed below are being administered during the upcoming June 2021 Regents Examination period.

- Algebra I
- English Language Arts
- Living Environment
- Physical Setting/Earth Science (Written Test, only)

This memorandum provides essential information about the administration of the four June 2021 Regents Examinations being administered on the dates specified in the [Examination Schedule: June 2021](#). In addition, all persons coordinating the administration of the June 2021 examinations should be familiar with the [School Administrator's Manual](#). This publication is available on the Department's website. Important telephone and fax numbers for the Office of State Assessment (OSA) are listed on the last page of this memorandum.

Accompanying this memorandum is the list of regional centers, a memorandum regarding the content of each June examination, and the [schedule for the June 2021 Regents Examination period](#).

Each Regents Examination must be administered at the date/time on which it appears on the [schedule](#), with strict adherence to the Statewide Uniform Admission Deadline. These four June 2021 Regents Examinations may NOT be administered at any other dates/times.

For the June 2021 administration, each scoring key and rating guide posted on the Department's website will be password protected. **Principals and/or their designees will need to access the Online Examination Request System to obtain the passwords required for the scoring materials each day that Regents Examinations are being administered, June 17 and 22-24.**

SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE TEST MATERIALS

Out of consideration for those students who are completing their examinations over multiple days as an approved testing accommodation, educators are not permitted to discuss test questions or other specific test content with others online via e-mail or LISTSERV, or through any other electronic means prior to or during the test administration and for seven calendar days after the original date of administration.

Everyone's cooperation with this rule helps to preserve the integrity of the assessments taken by these students over multiple school days, so that they can complete the examinations at a pace appropriate for them. Avoiding public discussion of specific test content over electronic media affords those students

an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. We believe that nearly all students who are testing with this accommodation will have completed their examinations by these dates. Please note that this instruction does not limit educators' ability or permission to discuss test questions among themselves, with their students who have fully completed the test, or with others during an in-person discussion, or to share with the Department any concern they have regarding any of the specific test content.

SHIPMENT OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS

Test booklets for the June 2021 Regents examinations will be shipped so as to arrive at schools (or approved storage locations) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14 through Wednesday, June 16.

The locked Regents boxes containing the June 2021 Regents Examinations will be delivered to your school or approved storage location by United Parcel Service (UPS). At the top of the shipping label are the principal's name, school phone number, school name, and school address of the school to which the shipment is being sent. If your school is serving as the approved storage location for a neighboring school, the guest school's name will appear at the bottom of the shipping label. The guest school is the school that requested the examinations in that locked box, and school personnel for the guest school will have the keys to open their locked boxes.

In early May, Regents diplomas, packed in cardboard cartons and/or padded mailers, were delivered to those schools which requested them. The Department does not provide printed copies of the following nonsecure materials, which will be available on the Department's website. Schools must print sufficient copies to adequately supply each student.

1. **Regular and translated edition reference tables** for Physical Setting/Earth Science. The [reference tables](#) can be found on the Department's website. Note that the Department will continue to provide schools with the braille and large-type editions of the reference tables.
2. The **essay booklets** for the Regents Examination in English Language Arts. All [essay booklets](#) can be found on the Department's website.

The materials listed below must be printed by the school and supplied to all school personnel involved in the administration and scoring of Regents Examinations:

1. [Directions for Administering Regents Examinations](#). These materials can be found on the Department's website.
2. [Information Booklets for Scoring Regents Examinations](#). These materials can be found on the Department's website.
3. [Scoring Keys and Rating Guides](#) for all Regents Examinations. These materials will be made available on the Department's website at approximately 11:00 a.m. on the scheduled administration dates.

All packages containing secure examination materials for your school will be shipped via United Parcel Service (UPS) and will be delivered between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 15, or 16. Please be sure that someone is available in your school or approved storage location during those hours to accept the exam shipment. Should any problems occur in connection with the delivery of exam materials, please call this office immediately.

The locked Regents boxes will be shipped with two locks and a plastic crimp. Padlock keys are mailed to the principal and should arrive no later than 2 days before the arrival of the locked Regents Boxes. Please call the Test Distribution Unit at 518-474-5914 if padlock keys have not been received by 12:00 noon on the expected date.

CHECKING THE EXAMINATION SHIPMENT

Enclosed in each delivery is a shipping notice listing the materials included. As soon as you receive the Regents box(es), use the shipping notice and your confirmation notice to inventory the materials received. **Under no circumstances may the sealed packages of secure examination materials be opened during this inventory.** The number of test booklets contained in each of the sealed packages is indicated below:

- *English editions of Regents Examinations.* Each sealed package contains 25 booklets.
- *Spanish editions of the Regents Examinations in Algebra I, Living Environment, and Physical Setting/Earth Science.* Each sealed package contains 25 booklets.
- *Braille and large-type editions, and translations (other than Spanish) of Regents Examinations.* The exact quantity requested will be shipped to the school.

If your inventory shows that the shipment contains excess examination materials or that it contains examination materials that your school did not request, please notify OSA immediately via fax or email to examrequest@nysed.gov. It is the principal's responsibility to maintain these excess materials under the same strict security as the examinations that your school will be administering, as outlined below under "Safeguarding Examination Materials."

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS

A list of regional centers accompanies this memorandum. If a shipment for your school does not include all the materials needed, additional materials may be obtained from a nearby regional center.

Supplies of all examination materials other than braille, large-type, and alternative language editions of all examinations will be available at regional centers. If your school requires an emergency supply of materials that are **not** ordinarily available at the regional centers or are more than 10 booklets of an examination that is ordinarily available at the regional center, please send a fax to OSA.

Examination materials are available at the regional centers only on the morning of the day of the examination. Subject to these limitations, materials may be picked up at regional centers after 8:00 a.m.

In order to obtain examination materials at a regional center, an individual must present a letter of authorization written on school letterhead and signed by the principal. The letter must identify the person picking up the materials and list the specific materials requested. Anyone obtaining examination materials must provide identification with a photograph and countersign the authorization letter before the examination materials will be released.

School personnel are forbidden to make or authorize photocopies of secure State examination booklets without the express written prior approval of OSA. Such approval will be considered only when it is not feasible for the school to obtain the secure examination materials from a regional center.

SAFEGUARDING EXAMINATION MATERIALS

The principal of each school requesting examinations must make the necessary arrangements to safeguard the materials requested for the school. Upon delivery, the locked Regents boxes must immediately be placed in a Department-approved safe or vault at the storage location designated by the school. Examination materials may be removed from locked Regents boxes only for inventory and for administration of the examinations on the scheduled date.

If the locked Regents boxes containing a school's shipment of secure examination materials are found to be too large for the approved storage location, the principal who requested the examinations must contact this office immediately to make arrangements for storage of the boxes in an alternative approved location.

The Regents box keys and the combination or key to the safe or vault must be maintained under strict security conditions to preclude access to examinations by students and other unauthorized persons. When the safe or vault where the Regents boxes are stored is unlocked, it must be kept under

continuous supervision by school personnel. Additionally, the locked Regents boxes must be visually checked daily by the person in charge of the administration of the examinations to ensure that they have not been tampered with and that their contents remain secure.

The sealed packages containing examination booklets must not be opened until the day each examination is scheduled to be administered, and no earlier than is necessary for distribution to proctors. The principal must notify the Department via fax if any packages of secure examination materials were not sealed properly when received.

If the examination materials are stored in a building other than the school in which the examinations will be administered, the materials for the examination of each day may be picked up from the storage location on the morning of that day. However, the materials may not be picked up from the storage location before the day on which that examination is scheduled to be administered.

Department personnel will make unannounced visits to some schools after the examination materials have been delivered in order to verify that they are being properly stored. If a storage violation is found, all examination materials will immediately be removed from the school and transferred to a location designated by the Department. The school principal will have to arrange to pick up examination materials from that location each morning during the Regents Examination period. The school will then be required to store all examination materials at a location designated by the Department for a period of at least one year. In addition, the Department may rescind the school's authorization to administer examinations.

Proctors may not use cell phones or other electronic devices to duplicate test materials and should keep their own communications devices put away during testing, using them **only** in emergency situations. Test booklets cannot be opened and read prior to the distribution of tests to students.

Following the examination period, in addition to other materials, the principal must sign and return to the Department the completed **Examination Scoring Certificate, Deputy and Proctor Certificate, and Examination Storage Certificate** (received in the shipment of secure materials). For a complete list of items to be returned, refer to the *Checklist for Return of Examination Materials in Regents Boxes* (DET 536) or to Section Four of the [School Administrator's Manual](#).

STUDENT USE OF COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other personal electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a State test is being administered. Test proctors and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration. Admission to the test shall be denied to any student who is in possession of a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device and refuses to relinquish it. For more information, see Student Use of Communications Devices in the [School Administrator's Manual](#).

ADMINISTERING AND SCORING EXAMINATIONS

As with all State examinations, teachers are **not** permitted to score their own students' answer papers. This means that teachers currently instructing students in the coursework associated with a particular Regents Examination may **not** score those students' answer papers for that examination. This prohibition includes special education and academic intervention services (AIS) teachers. The following examples are intended to offer guidance to school administrators who will be making determinations as to a teacher's eligibility to score specific students' examination papers.

- A teacher providing AIS to a student in preparation for a Regents Examination may not score that student's answer paper for this examination.
- An English teacher who is a student's homeroom teacher but is not the student's current-year English teacher may score that student's answer paper for the Regents Examination in English Language Arts.

- A mathematics teacher who taught a student algebra the year before but is not currently instructing a student in the coursework in geometry may score the student's answer paper for the Regents Examination in Geometry.

The principal is responsible for making the final determination as to whether or not a teacher may score specific students' examination papers based on this scoring policy. A principal may establish rules that are more prohibitive than the illustrations above suggest.

The general administration procedures for secondary-level examinations are provided in the [School Administrator's Manual](#). Specific [directions](#) for administering regular and restricted examinations are available on the Department website. These materials must be distributed to teachers before the examination date in order to give them time to become familiar with the instructions.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring materials to supply one to each rater.

All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's website will be password protected (see page 1).

The same scoring materials are provided to score the regular English editions, the alternative language editions, and the braille editions for all Regents Examinations, except for the braille editions of Living Environment and Physical Setting/Earth Science. Separate scoring materials are provided for the braille editions of Living Environment and Physical Setting/Earth Science.

REPORTING TESTING MISCONDUCT AND IRREGULARITIES TO THE DEPARTMENT

The principal is responsible for all aspects of the school's administration of State examinations and must take appropriate measures both to prevent, as much as possible, and to investigate, all irregularities associated with the administration and scoring of these examinations.

Reporting Testing Misconduct and Other Testing Irregularities

The principal must report the following misconduct by students and testing irregularities in writing on school letterhead to OSA via fax or e-mail:

- All student infractions of the Department's policy prohibiting the possession or use of cell phones and other communications devices during State examinations.
- All confirmed cases of students having committed fraud on State examinations.
- All interruptions of testing sessions, including those caused by power outages or fire alarms.
- All instances in which a State examination is administered without Department authorization at a time outside the published Statewide schedule.
- All instances in which a school does not conform to the Uniform Statewide Admission Deadline in administering a Regents Examination.
- All instances in which scorers do not rate State examinations in accordance with the scoring materials provided by the Department.
- All cases in which student answer papers are lost prior to the recording of the scores in students' permanent records.

Mandatory Reporting of Testing Improprieties by Adults

The Department's Test Security Unit (TSU) handles all reports of testing improprieties by adults involved in the administration and scoring of State assessments. Each school district, BOCES, and charter school employee is required to report to the Department any known incident of testing misconduct by a certified educator, as well as any known testing misconduct by a non-certified individual involved in the handling, administration, or scoring of State assessments that may reasonably be considered to be in violation of section 225 of the Education Law. Reports should be made via the TSU website by submitting the [Incident Report Form](#) located on the main page under "Report Educator Test Fraud."

A school district or BOCES may not take adverse action, including dismissal and any disciplinary or other adverse action, against an employee who files a mandatory report of testing misconduct, because the employee filed a report. Any certified employee who takes such unwarranted adverse action against another employee may face disciplinary action by the Department.

More complete information on strategies for avoiding the occurrences listed above and for addressing them should they occur may be found in the [School Administrator's Manual](#) and in the [Directions for Administering Regents Examinations, June 2021 Administration](#).

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with Disabilities

Principals must ensure that students with disabilities are provided the testing accommodations specified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans) when they take State examinations. Under certain conditions, special examination arrangements may be made for general education students taking State examinations. The guidelines to be followed in such circumstances are provided in Section Two of the [School Administrator's Manual](#).

English Language Learners (ELLs)

Schools may provide the following testing accommodations to ELLs:

- *Time Extension:* Schools may extend the test time for ELLs. Principals may use any reasonable extensions, such as “time and a half” (the required testing time plus one-half of that amount of time), in accordance with their best judgment about the needs of the ELLs. Principals should consult with each student’s classroom teacher in making these determinations.
- *Separate Location:* Schools are encouraged to provide optimal testing environments and facilities for all students. They may administer State examinations to ELLs individually or in small groups in a separate location.
- *Bilingual Dictionaries and Glossaries:* ELLs may use bilingual dictionaries and glossaries when taking State examinations. The bilingual dictionaries and glossaries may provide **only** direct translations of words. Bilingual dictionaries or glossaries that provide definitions or explanations are **not** permitted.
- *Simultaneous Use of English and Alternative Language Editions:* For those Regents Examinations for which the Department provides direct written translations, ELLs may use both an English and an alternative language edition of the test simultaneously. However, they should be instructed to record all of their responses in only one of the two editions. The alternative language edition used by the student should be so indicated on the student’s answer document.
- *Oral Translation for Lower Incidence Languages:* Schools may provide ELLs with an oral translation of a State examination when there is no translated edition provided by the Department. This accommodation is permitted for State examinations in all subjects **except** English. All translations must be oral, direct translations of the English editions — written translations are not allowed. No clarifications or explanations may be provided. Translators should receive copies of the English editions of the tests *one hour prior* to administration. The Department’s Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (telephone 518-474-8775) and the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERNs) can assist schools in locating suitable translators. A [list of RBERNs](#) is available on the Department’s website.
- *Writing Responses in Home Language:* ELLs making use of alternative language editions or of oral translations of State examinations may write their responses to the open-ended questions in their home language. Scoring the tests is the responsibility of the school. However, the Department’s Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages and the RBERNs can assist in locating suitable translators who can translate the students’ responses into English to facilitate scoring of the papers.

Former English Language Learners

Schools may provide the testing accommodations listed above under the heading “English Language Learners” to Former ELLs who met the exiting criteria specified in Part 154-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and were exited from ELL status following their participation in one of the two most recent administrations (Spring 2018 or Spring 2019) of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Such students either achieved an overall level of Commanding on the NYSESLAT or achieved an overall level of Expanding on the most recent administration of the NYSESLAT and scored at Level 3 or higher on the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test or earned a score of 65 or higher on the Regents Examination in English Language Arts.

These accommodations may not be provided to Former ELLs who achieved the exiting criteria through achievement on a NYSESLAT administration prior to Spring 2018. [Additional guidance](#) on the identification of Former ELLs is available on the Department’s website.

HANDLING OF STUDENTS’ COMPLETED EXAMINATION MATERIALS

When a student has completed a State examination, the student’s answer materials should be collected and confirmed, or “checked in,” by a proctor and logged in to a list of examinees before that student is permitted to leave the testing room. When they are hand scored, answer papers for all State examinations must remain in the custody of teachers or administrators in the school building or regional scoring site until the rating process is complete and scores are recorded on the students’ permanent records. When answer papers are scored in cooperation with another school, answer papers may be transported to the cooperating school for such scoring. It remains the principal’s responsibility to ensure the security and integrity of such papers while they are out of the building. Answer papers that are sent to a scanning center for scoring may be stored either at the scanning location or in the schools where the examinations were administered, as long as storage conditions are maintained that will not limit the principal’s access to an individual student’s answer paper. As an additional precaution, all scrap paper should be retained until all examination scores have been recorded.

If a student’s answer paper is lost, the principal or superintendent must conduct an inquiry and file a written report with this office. This report must include (1) a description of the loss or disappearance, including a list of the student identification numbers or initials of all students whose papers are missing; (2) the examination title and administration date; (3) the likely cause of the loss or disappearance; and (4) what steps will be taken to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

MATERIALS RETURNED IN THE REGENTS BOX

The materials that must be returned to the Department in the Regents boxes are listed in Section Four of the [School Administrator’s Manual](#) and on the checklist provided to schools in the shipment of secure test materials. Please combine all materials to be returned to the Department in one Regents box when possible.

Return all Regents boxes no later than July 16, 2021. Please check all storage locations for any boxes remaining from previous examination periods and return those boxes as well. Each school must pay for the return shipment of its own Regents boxes; the boxes may not be returned collect. The boxes may be returned by United Parcel Service (UPS) or any other carrier. Regardless of the carrier, the school must call the carrier, make the necessary arrangements, and pay for the return shipment. If the Regents boxes for a school are returned collect, the Department will refuse delivery.

ONLINE SUBMISSION OF TEACHER EVALUATIONS OF EXAMINATIONS

Suggestions and feedback from teachers are an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments where teachers may respond to several specific questions and may make suggestions. Complete and submit your [evaluation](#) of any examination (except restricted editions) on the Department’s website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the requesting, storing, and administering of the Regents Examinations, call the Operations Group at 518-474-8220.

For other questions regarding State assessments, call OSA's main number at 518-474-5900.

Fax supplemental requests for Regents Examinations to 518-474-2021.

Other faxes regarding test administration may be sent to 518-474-1989.

OSA can also be reached via [e-mail](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.