



December 2015

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools

**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

**SUBJECT:** Transition to the Regents Examination in Algebra II (Common Core)  
Original issue date: August 2015  
**Updated: December 2015**

The Department began the implementation of new Common Core Regents Examinations in mathematics in June 2014. Students who, in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, began their first commencement-level mathematics course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later were required to take the New York State CCLS Regents Exam in mathematics that corresponded to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction. At the time, the Department issued guidance that allowed schools the option of administering the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra (2005 Standards) in addition to the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core). The higher of the two scores could be used for transcript purposes and would be used for institutional accountability purposes. The option to take the old Regents Examination in addition to the new Regents Examination continued with the introduction of the Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core) in June 2015. (Please see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/commoncore/transitionccregents1113rev.pdf>).

In response to educator feedback requesting an extension of this policy, the Board of Regents **amended the regulations at their December 2015 meeting** to provide a similar option for the new Regents Examination in Algebra II (Common Core) and the current Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry (2005 Standard). Students enrolled in Algebra II (Common Core) **will** be allowed, at the discretion of the school, to take the Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry (2005 Standard) in addition to the Regents Examination in Algebra II (Common Core). If students take the old Regents Examination in addition to the new Regents Examination, the higher of the two scores **may** be used for transcript purposes, and **will** be used for institutional accountability purposes for the 2015-16 school year results.

It is also important to be aware that the standards assessed on the Regents Examinations in Algebra II (Common Core) and Algebra 2/Trigonometry differ appreciably. Although the standards of the courses have commonalities, there are

significant content differences. Schools and districts should, therefore, work closely with their mathematics staff to determine whether to make this option of taking the old exam in addition to the new exam available to students. The Algebra II (Common Core) Course Overview, which contains the standards, clarifications, and emphases for the course, is available at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/grades-9-12-mathematics-curriculum-map>. For purposes of comparison, the standards covered in the Mathematics Core Curriculum (2005) Algebra 2/Trigonometry are available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/math/standards/a2trig.html>. Information pertaining to the Regents Examination in Algebra II (Common Core) is available at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/regents-exams-mathematics>.

If you have any questions concerning the new Regents Exams or the implementation timeline, please contact the Office of State Assessment by e-mail at [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or by phone at 518-474-5900.