



WORLD LANGUAGES UPDATE


Impact of the Cancellation of the June 2020 Administration of the NYSED High School Regents Examination Program on LOTE exams

April 2020

GUIDANCE ON CANCELLATION OF JUNE 2020 REGENTS EXAMS

- Official guidance released by NYSED on April 7, 2020 (www.nysed.gov – “News” section on right)

MEMO

 THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12244

April 7, 2020

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

FROM: Shannon Tahoe, Interim Commissioner *Shannon H. Tahoe*

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the June 2020 Administration of the New York State (NYS) High School Regents Examination Program in Response to COVID-19 Related School and District Closures

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) is cancelling the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program in response to the statewide closures of schools and districts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This cancellation applies to all Regents Examinations that had been scheduled for the June 2020 Regents Examination period. This memorandum also provides information on the adjustments that NYSED will make to the examination requirements that students must ordinarily meet in order to earn diplomas, credentials, and endorsements so that the cancellation of these exams will not adversely impact students.

This situation has evolved rapidly such that schools have now closed statewide, and there is much uncertainty as to when regular in-school attendance and instruction will be able to resume throughout the State and/or whether students will be adequately prepared to take these assessments. It is most important that during the time of closure, educators be able to continue to focus their efforts toward local school and community needs and not have to be concerned about preparing students for State assessments.

Modifications to Diploma Requirements for Students Impacted by the Cancellation of June 2020 Regents Examinations

Because of the cancellation of the June 2020 Regents Examinations, the Department is making certain modifications to the assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

Regents Examination Exemptions

Students who during the June 2020 examination period would take one or more Regents Examinations shall be exempted from the requirements pertaining to passing such

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FAQ

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

[REGENTS EXAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS](#)
[EARNING COURSE CREDIT](#)
[PATHWAYS, DEPARTMENT APPROVED ALTERNATIVE EXAMS & TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS](#)
[ADVANCED DESIGNATION & ENDORSEMENTS](#)
[STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES / ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS](#)
[RECORDING STUDENTS SCORES](#)
[POST-GRADUATION OR EXITING HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY](#)

REGENTS EXAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Are students exempt from Regents Examination they were planning on taking during the June 2020 test administration?

Students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning to take in June 2020:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Regents Exam and by the scheduled date of the June 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 Exam but was intending to take the test in June 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.

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[Link to NYSED memo \(4/7/20\)](#)

[Link to NYSED FAQ \(4/7/20\)](#)

PURPOSE

To inform stakeholders that NYSED is cancelling the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program in response to the statewide closures of schools and districts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Cancellation applies to all Regents Exams that had been scheduled for the June 2020 Regents Examination period.

The memorandum also provides information on the adjustments that NYSED will make to the examination requirements that students must ordinarily meet in order to earn diplomas, credentials, and endorsements so that the cancellation of these exams, **including LOTE exams**, will not adversely impact students.



MODIFICATION TO DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

ENROLLMENT:

Students must be enrolled in **grades 7-12** in **2019-20**.

- NYSED is making certain modifications to the **assessment requirements** for the 2019-20 school year in response to COVID-19 school closures that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements.
- These modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

INTENTIONALITY: Students must have been **intending to participate in these exams in June 2020.**



WHICH LOTE EXAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTIONS?

LOTE
Checkpoint A



LOTE
Checkpoint B



4+1 Pathway
Exams in
LOTE



GENERAL CHECKPOINT QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoints A & B

Question: Can students earn credit for courses that did not meet the unit of study (180-minute/week) due to requirement outlined in Commissioner's Regulation 100.1(a) due to COVID-19 related closures?

Answer: 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 part 100.1.



GENERAL CHECKPOINT QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoints A & B

Question: In order for a student to be exempt from a June 2020 Regents examination (including the Checkpoint A or B exam), must the student have earned the unit of credit in the course?

Answer: Yes. Students **must have earned the unit of credit** for the course culminating in either the Checkpoint A or B exam in order to be eligible for an exemption.



GENERAL CHECKPOINT QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoints A & B

Question: 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 the Commissioner's Regulations?

Answer: 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.

GENERAL CHECKPOINT QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoints A & B

Question: How will students who are granted exemptions to exams meet assessment requirements for graduation?

Answer: Students granted an exemption from any examination are **NOT required to pass such specific examinations** to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (Checkpoint A exam for the Regents Diploma or Checkpoint B exam for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation).



WHICH STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EXAM EXEMPTIONS?

Students who during the June 2020 examination period would take one or more Regents Examinations shall be exempted from the requirements pertaining to passing such examinations in order to be issued a diploma. In order to qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

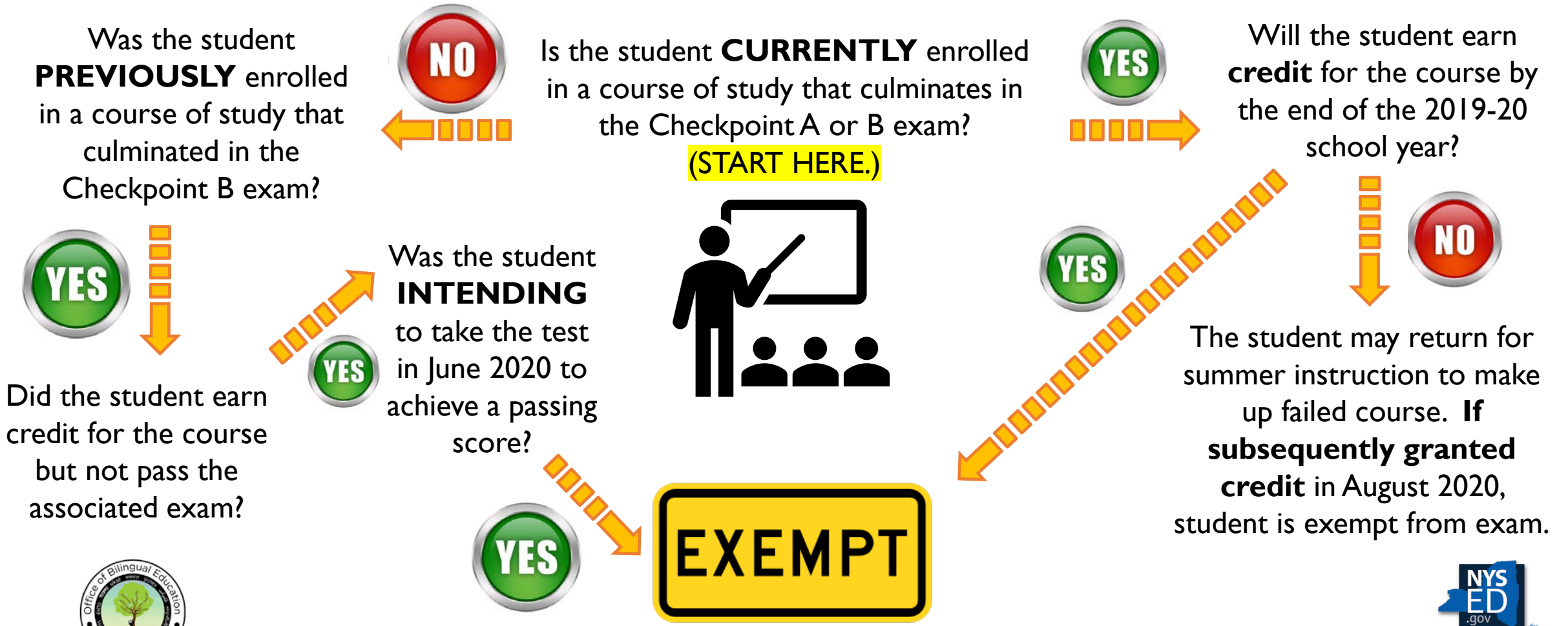
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- 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 of study leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents Examination but was intending to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ # 5 for additional information).

Most common

Students enrolled in a Checkpoint A course in middle school or a Checkpoint B course in high school



WHICH STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LOTE EXAM EXEMPTIONS?



WHICH LOTE EXAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTIONS?

2-year middle
school course
sequence –
generally 7th & 8th
grades

LOTE Checkpoint A

1-year
accelerated 8th
grade course

1-year high school level course

Checkpoint A courses at the high
school level do NOT require an
exam, therefore no exemption.



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A

Question: Is a student currently enrolled in 8th grade LOTE who will earn credit for the course by the end of 2019-20 exempt from the Checkpoint A exam?

Answer: Yes. Students enrolled in 8th grade LOTE that will earn credit for the course are exempt from the Checkpoint A exam.



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A



Question: Do Regents exemptions apply to students earning diploma credit through ***accelerated*** coursework in grade 8?

Answer: Yes. Any student in grade 8 enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents exam (including the Checkpoint A exam in LOTE) who has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework shall be granted an exemption and the applicable diploma credit.



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A



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

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



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A



Question: Is a 7th grader currently enrolled in the first year of a 2-year LOTE sequence exempt from taking the Checkpoint A exam?

Answer: No. Exemptions are only granted for the June 2020 exams. The exemption also doesn't apply in this case because the course doesn't culminate in the Checkpoint A exam. This student will take the exam in June 2021.



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A

Question: Can a high school student (9th-12th grades) who failed the Checkpoint A exam in a prior year be retroactively exempted from this exam?



Answer: No. The exemption doesn't apply in this case because once a student enters 9th grade, the Checkpoint A exam is no longer required.



CHECKPOINT A QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint A

Question: If a student fails to earn credit for the 8th grade LOTE course 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 the Checkpoint A exam?



Answer: Yes. As long as the student successfully makes up the credit in summer of 2020, the student can be considered exempt from the Checkpoint A exam.



WHICH LOTE EXAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTIONS?

Locally developed
Checkpoint B exam
(school, consortium,
3rd party vendor)

LOTE
Checkpoint B

4+1 Pathway
exam in
LOTE

2-year high school course sequence
– generally 9th & 10th grades



WHICH LOTE EXAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTIONS?

Locally developed
Checkpoint B exam
(school, consortium,
3rd party vendor)

LOTE Checkpoint B

2-year high school course sequence
– generally 9th & 10th grades

The **same** eligibility
requirements apply:

- (1) Is the student
currently enrolled in a
course culminating in
a Checkpoint B exam?
- (2) Will the student earn
course credit by the
end of 2019-20?



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B



Question: Is a student currently enrolled in the second year Checkpoint B LOTE course who will earn credit for the course by the end of 2019-20 eligible for an exemption from the Checkpoint B exam?

Answer: Yes. Students enrolled in the second year of the Checkpoint B sequence (generally 10th grade) who will earn credit for the course are eligible for an exemption of the Checkpoint B exam.



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B



Question: Can a student who is exempted from the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE examination meet the requirements of the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?

Answer: Yes. 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.

This includes students who have been awarded **LOTE credit** through documented school attendance and residency in an other than English speaking environment.



LOCALLY DEVELOPED LOTE CHECKPOINT B EXAMINATIONS

Districts and charter schools may exempt the requirement of passing the locally developed LOTE Checkpoint B examination for any student who was intending to take such examination in June 2020 in order for the student to meet the requirements for an Advanced Regents diploma provided that the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject prior to the end of the 2019-20 school year.



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B

Question: Can students earn credit by examination through the Regents examination exemptions?



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



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B



Question: If a student fails to earn credit for the second year of the LOTE Checkpoint B course 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 the Checkpoint B exam?

Answer: Yes. As long as the student successfully makes up the credit in summer of 2020, the student can be considered exempt from the Checkpoint B exam.



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B



Question: Can a student who previously earned course credit for Checkpoint B LOTE but who has not yet passed the Checkpoint B exam be exempted from the June 2020 exam?

Answer: Yes. A student who was planning on taking Regents Examinations (including the locally developed Checkpoint B exam) during the June 2020 test administration is eligible for an exemption.



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B

Question: How does a school know if a student was intending to take or retake a test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score?

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

I

The student informed the school that s/he wished to retake the exam; or



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B

Question: How does a school know if a student was intending to take or retake a test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score?

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

2

The student was receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the examination; or



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B

Question: How does a school know if a student was intending to take or retake a test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score?

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

3

The student took the examination in June 2019, August 2019, or January 2020 in an attempt to pass or better his/her score.



CHECKPOINT B QUESTIONS

LOTE Checkpoint B



Question: May a student who is exempted from the LOTE Checkpoint B exam due to COVID-19 be admitted to future administrations of the exam?

Answer: Yes. Schools/districts shall provide opportunities for students to attempt Checkpoint B exams in subsequent administration periods, if students so choose.



WHICH LOTE EXAMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTIONS?

Locally developed
Checkpoint B exam
(school, consortium,
3rd party vendor)

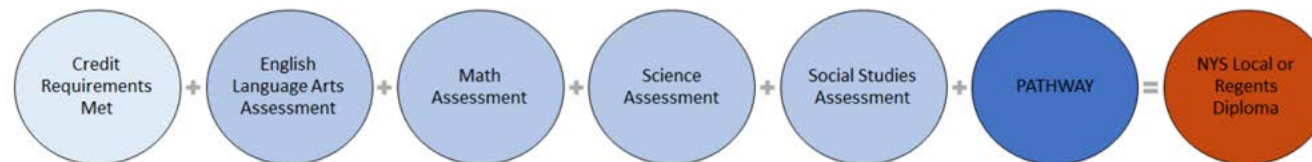
LOTE
Checkpoint B

4+1 Pathway
exam in
LOTE



WHAT ARE THE 4+1 PATHWAY ASSESSMENTS IN LOTE?

Under the “4+1” pathway assessment option, students must take and pass four required [Regents Exams](#) (one in each of the following subjects: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) and complete a comparably rigorous pathway to meet the fifth assessment requirement for graduation.



There are now 4+1 Pathway Exams available in six different World Languages that can fulfill the 5th Regents exam requirement for graduation: American Sign Language (ASL), Chinese, French, Italian, Korean, and Spanish.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR THE 4+I PATHWAY ASSESSMENTS IN LOTE?

Any student preparing to take a NYSED-approved +I Pathway Assessment in June 2020 shall be exempt from the requirements pertaining to passing an approved assessment for the purposes of meeting the diploma requirements. In order to qualify for the exemption students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in the second year of the Checkpoint B course sequence leading to the +I 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 second year of the Checkpoint B course leading to the +I Pathway Assessment, has achieved the applicable course credit and has not yet passed the associated +I Pathway Assessment but was intending to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score;
- 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) +I 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 +I 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 +I Pathway Assessment in ASL in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

Most common

Students enrolled in the second year of a Checkpoint B course culminating in the +I Pathway Assessment.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR THE 4+I PATHWAY ASSESSMENTS IN LOTE (MUST MEET ALL CRITERIA LISTED)?



ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELLS) ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR THE 4+ I PATHWAY ASSESSMENTS IN LOTE?

Students who are currently or were previously identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) whose home language is one of the languages tested by the NYSED-approved Languages Other Than English (LOTE) + I 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 + I Assessment in June 2020 to achieve a passing score are eligible for an exemption.



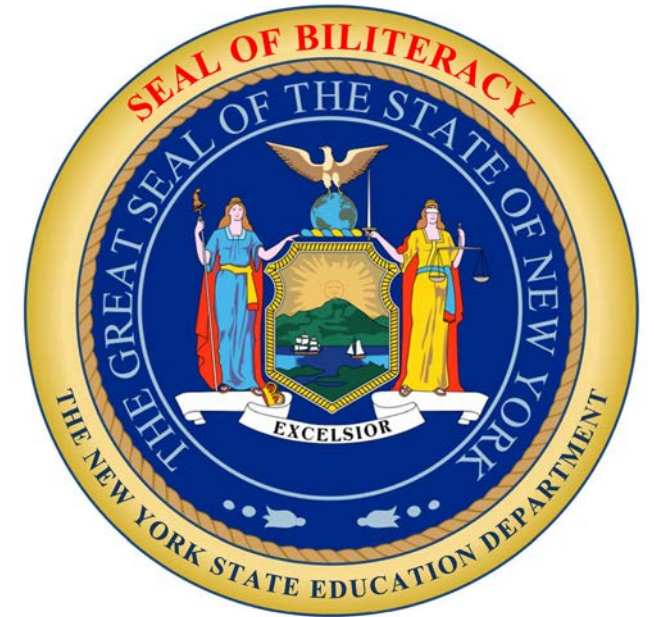
ARE STUDENTS STUDYING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR THE 4+1 PATHWAY ASSESSMENTS IN LOTE?

Students who are deemed qualified by the principal in consultation with relevant faculty in the use of American Sign Language (ASL) and were intending to take the LOTE +I Pathway Assessment in ASL in June 2020 to achieve a passing score are eligible for an exemption.



NEW YORK STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

Additional guidance addressing how students can complete the requirements for the New York Seal of Biliteracy will be issued under separate cover and will include a separate set of frequently asked questions.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

[List of frequently asked questions](#) will be updated regularly on NYSED's COVID-19 Information site.

Any 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.

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Please continue to monitor NYSED's COVID-19 Information site for additional guidance as it becomes available.





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