




# New York State Graduation Requirements

## Additional Options

To earn a New York State (NYS) diploma, students must meet credit and exam requirements. [New York State Graduation Requirements: Understanding Current New York State Diploma Requirements](#) outlines these requirements. This resource explains additional graduation options for students. These options include both diploma and non-diploma options.

### Appeals

All students may appeal a lower score on a Regents exam if they meet the following conditions:

2x	Student took the Regents exam under appeal at least two times.
✓	Student has at least one score within the point range for the appeal.
	Student received academic help provided by the school in the related subject.
	Student passed the related course.
	Student is recommended for the appeal by a teacher or Department chairperson in the related subject.

The district or school awarding a student's diploma grants the appeal. More information can be found on the [Appeals, Safety Nets, and Superintendent Determination](#) webpage.



### Options for All Students

#### Appeal Option (Regents or Local Diploma)

All students can meet the exam requirements for a Regents diploma with one appealed Regents exam score. This score can be no more than 5 points below passing (60-64). All remaining Regents exams must be passing scores of 65 or better. All students can meet the exam requirements for a local diploma with two appealed Regents exam scores. These scores can be no more than 5 points below passing (60-64). All remaining Regents exams must be passing scores of 65 or better.



#### Exiting Credential (non-diploma option)

Students who cannot meet the diploma requirements may exit high school with the CDOS Commencement Credential. Such students must complete the requirements for the [CDOS Commencement Credential](#). A stand-alone CDOS Commencement Credential is not equal to a diploma. This option is not available for students with disabilities who are eligible for a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential.

### Options for English Language Learners

#### Appeal Option (Local Diploma)

Some English Language Learners may use a successfully appealed English Regents exam score of 55-59 to meet the exam requirements. To be eligible, students must enter the United States in grade 9 or after and be classified as an English Language Learner when taking the English Regents exam the second time. Students who use this option will earn a local diploma.

Note: Students who use this option may also appeal one additional Regents exam. This exam score must be no more than 5 points below passing (60-64).

#### Credit Options

English Language Learners may earn elective, core content, and LOTE credit for completion of specific ENL and Bilingual Education programs. Reference the [Units of Study Tables for English as a New Language \(ENL\) and Bilingual Education Programs](#) and the [LOTE FAQ](#) for more information.

## Options for Students with Disabilities

### Low Pass Safety Net (Local Diploma)

The low pass safety net option allows a student with a disability to meet the testing requirements for a local diploma. Eligible students must score between 55 and 64 on one or more of the required Regents exams.

### Appeal Option (Local Diploma)

Students using the low pass safety net option also have the option to appeal up to two Regents exam scores. These scores must be between 52-54. The students must also meet the eligibility criteria for appeals.

### Compensatory Safety Net (Local Diploma)

The compensatory safety net option allows students with disabilities to compensate a score between 45-54 on a required Regents exam (except for ELA or mathematics) with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents exam.






### LOTE Credit Exemption

Students with disabilities may be excused from the requirement for 1 credit in LOTE, **if indicated on their IEP**. They must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate. Students who are declassified in grades 9-12 whose last IEP included a LOTE exemption are also eligible. A LOTE exempt student who seeks a Regents diploma with advanced designation does NOT have to complete the 5-unit sequence in the Arts or CTE to meet the exam requirements for the advanced diploma.



### Superintendent Determination (Local Diploma)

Students with disabilities who are unable to meet the exam requirements for a local diploma may use the superintendent determination option. Students must meet the eligibility conditions:

	Student has a current individualized education program (IEP) and is receiving special education programs and services.
	Student participated in and passed all relevant Regents-level coursework.
	Student actively participated in all required Regents exams.
	Student earned the appropriate 22 units of diploma credit.
	Student's parent or person in parental relations submitted a written request to the superintendent for a determination of a local diploma.

Note: The superintendent decides if a student has met the graduation requirements. The NYS Education Department does not approve the superintendent determination option.

### Exiting Credential (non-diploma option)

Students in NYS who are tested using the [New York State Alternate Assessment \(NYSAA\)](#) are eligible to exit high school with the [Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential](#).

## Resources

- [Appeals, Safety Nets, and Superintendent Determination](#)
- [Exiting Credentials](#)
- [General Education and Diploma Requirements](#)
- [New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements](#)

## Questions?

Contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov) or (518)474-5922