



Procedure for Evaluation and Approval of Assessments for Use as +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) students have the option to meet graduation requirements by passing four required Regents examinations *and* a pathway assessment. In order to ensure that 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 pathway assessments.

The New York State Education Department is currently accepting Applications for Consideration of assessments. Pathway assessments (i.e., “+1 option”) in the Arts, Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS), and World Languages will be accepted.

Pathway Assessments

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

Criteria for Approval for Arts, CDOS, or World Languages Pathway Assessments

To be considered for approval, Arts, CDOS, and World Languages 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 CDOS and World Languages¹, 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.

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

² For additional information on Arts standards, please go to the [Office of Standards and Instruction’s website](#).

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.

Procedure for Submitting Assessments for Approval

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 Pathway assessments.

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**. A separate application must be submitted for each category of language that a vendor wishes to be considered for use with Pathways in World Languages.)

Arts Pathway (Specify Discipline: _____)

CDOS Pathway

World Languages Pathway

Category 1-2

Category 3-4

Classical

Please note: Vendors may submit a single application for all languages they offer within a category. The categories are as follows:

- Category 1-2 languages: Afrikaans, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Haitian Creole, Indonesian, Italian, Malaysian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish
- Category 3-4: all other modern languages
- Classical languages (e.g., Latin, ancient Greek, ancient Hebrew)

The target proficiency levels for each category are as follows:

- Category 1-2 – Checkpoint B = Intermediate Low, Checkpoint C (Seal) = Intermediate High
- Category 3-4 – Checkpoint B = Novice High, Checkpoint C (Seal) = Intermediate Mid
- Classical – Checkpoint B = Intermediate Low (Interpretive Reading only), Checkpoint C (Seal) = Intermediate High (Interpretive Reading only)

For a complete list of languages within each category, please refer to pages 51-52 of the [New York State Seal of Biliteracy Handbook](#) available on our website.