

New York State Graduation Requirements





Understanding Exemptions due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Board of Regents' approved exemptions to the requirements for students to earn a New York State high school diploma.

Students granted an exemption are not required to pass such specific exam(s) to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). Exemptions remain with students through their graduation or through exiting high school.

Exemptions due to COVID-19

Students who met one of the following conditions were eligible for exemption from the diploma requirement of passing a Regents Exam:

	Enrolled during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year in a course of study culminating in a Regents Exam and earned credit in such course of study by August 2021;
	Enrolled as a 7 th or 8 th grader during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year, in a course of study leading to a Regents Exam, and met the learning outcomes for such course of study by August 2021;
	Successfully completed a make-up program by August 2021 in a course of study culminating in a Regents Exam; or
	Previously achieved course credit in a course of study leading to a Regents Exam, has not yet passed the associated Regents, but intended to take the test in June/August 2020 or June/August 2021 to achieve a passing score.




Additional information specific to January 2021 exemptions can be found in the [January Exemptions FAQ](#).



Parental Right to Decline Exemptions

Parents and persons in parental relation of students who are eligible to graduate as a result of having met an assessment requirement through an exemption due to COVID-19 may decline such exemption.

If a parent declines an exemption, it's important to remember:

	the decision is irrevocable;
	the student will not be eligible to graduate until the student meets all graduation assessment requirements, including those for which the student was previously eligible for an exemption and the parent declined such exemption; and
	the student will remain eligible to receive a free public education until the end of the school year in which the child attains age 21 or earns a diploma, whichever shall occur first.

Additional information can be found in the memo, [Parental Right to Decline Exam Waivers](#).



Seals & Endorsements

Students can still earn all diploma types, seals, and endorsements.

Honors	<p>Students with a minimum of three scored Regents Exams applicable to the diploma type Exemptions due to COVID-19 would be removed from the calculation. If the computed average of the Regents Exam scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.</p> <p>Students with fewer than three scored Regents Exams applicable to the diploma type The student's final course grade for each exempted Regents Exam will be substituted in the calculation for honors. If the computed average of the scored Regents Exams and the final course grades for courses for which exemptions were granted equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.</p>
Mastery	<p>Student completed all the requirements for Advanced Designation; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• passed 3 Regents Exams in mathematics/science with a score of 85 or higher; or• passed 2 Regents Exams in mathematics/science with a score of 85 or higher and was granted an exemption on a third Regents Exam in mathematics/science; or• passed 1 Regents Exam in mathematics/science with an 85 or higher and earned a final course grade of 85 or higher in 2 additional mathematics/science courses culminating in a Regents Exam for which an exemption was granted.

Additional information can be found on the [Endorsements and Seals](#) webpage.

Other Exemptions

In addition to exemptions from Regents Exams, students may also be exempted from the following under certain circumstances. See FAQ for further information:

- Science Laboratory Requirement for Admission into a Regents Exam not completed due to COVID ([FAQ #s 4, 13](#))
- Checkpoint A/B Exams in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) ([FAQ #s 21, 39, 43](#))
- Department Approved Pathway Exams ([FAQ # 22, 23](#))
- Department Approved Alternative Exams ([FAQ # 24](#))
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Technical Assessment ([FAQ #25, 27](#))
- Requirements for the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential not completed due to COVID ([FAQ #23, 28-30, 32](#))

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2021 and August 2021 Exemptions

[Frequently Asked Questions Related to the June 2021 and August 2021 Exemptions from Diploma Requirements](#)

January 2021 Exemptions

[Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Cancellation of the January 2021 New York State \(NYS\) High School Regents Exams](#)

June 2020 and August 2020 Exemptions

[Regents Exams and Graduation Requirements: Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure](#)



Additional Resources

NYSED Webpages

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[General Education and Diploma Requirements](#)

[Understanding NYS Diploma Requirements: Family Resources](#)

Questions?

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