March 19, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions Related to the June 2021 and August 2021 Exemptions from Diploma Requirements

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Administration of Regents Examinations

1. **Are the June 2021 Regents Examinations cancelled?**
   The NYSED is not yet aware of whether or not the United States Department of Education (USDE) will act favorably on our waiver request. At this time, the NYSED plans to administer **only** the following Regents Examinations:
   - Algebra I
   - Earth Science (written test only)
   - English Language Arts (ELA)
   - Living Environment

   If the USDE approves the waivers, the NYSED will not administer any Regents Examinations in June 2021. The NYSED anticipates a response from the USDE by April.

2. **Are the August 2021 Regents Examinations cancelled?**
   Yes. The NYSED will not be administering any Regents Examinations in August 2021.

3. **Are students that are enrolled in one of the four courses culminating in an administered Regents Examination (Algebra I, Earth Science, ELA, Living Environment) required to take the associated Regents Examination?**
   These examinations shall be administered only in instances where schools and districts can ensure the health and safety of students and teachers. Students receiving remote instruction should not be made to come to school for the sole purpose of taking a Regents Examination.

4. **Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be permitted into the Earth Science or Living Environment Regents Examination?**
   No. In December 2020, the NYSED issued Flexibility in the 1,200 Minute Science Laboratory Requirement. Students are not required to complete 1,200 minutes of

satisfactory laboratory experiences for either admission into a Regents Exam in science or exemption from the assessment requirement.

Regents Examination Exemption Eligibility

5. **Are all students intending to take a June 2021 or August 2021 Regents Examination exempted from the associated diploma requirement?**
   Students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from the associated diploma requirement:
   - be currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and earn credit in such course of study by June 2021 or August 2021;
   - be in grade 7 or grade 8, enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, and meet the learning outcomes for such course of study by June 2021 or August 2021;
   - successfully complete a make-up program by August 2021 in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination; or
   - previously achieved course credit in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, has not yet passed the associated Regents, but intended to take the test in June or August 2021 to achieve a passing score. (Refer to Question 9 for more information).

6. **If the four Regents Examinations are administered, will students still be entitled to an exemption from the diploma requirement related to passing these examinations?**
   Yes. Even if students take the June 2021 Regents Examination(s) in Algebra I, Earth Science (written test only), English Language Arts, and/or Living Environment, they are still entitled to the exemption(s) from the associated diploma requirement.

7. **How will students who are granted exemptions to exams meet assessment requirements for graduation?**
   Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). For example, a student who received an exemption from the Regents Examination in English Language Arts does not need to meet the ELA assessment requirement for a local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma. Exemptions remain with students until they graduate or exit high school.

8. **In order for a student to be exempt from a June 2021 or August 2021 Regents Examination, must the student have earned a unit of credit in the course?**
   Yes, unless the student is in grade 7 and is not eligible for diploma credit, or the student is in an accelerated course in grade 8. In such cases, the student has to have met the learning standards for the course (passed the course) in order to be eligible for an exemption.

9. **Question 5 above states that a student is eligible for an exemption if the student "was intending to take the test in June or August to achieve a passing score." How do I know if a student "intended" to take a Regents Examination?**
   Schools can apply the "intended to take a Regents Examination" eligibility requirement under one of the following circumstances:
   - the student informed the school that they wished to retake the examination, or
   - the student was receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction, or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the examination.

10. **If a student or parent[1] expresses the student's intention to take a Regents Examination, even if such intention was not in the student's educational plan, is the student still entitled to the exemption?**
    If the student meets an eligibility condition for a Regents Examination exemption, the district must honor the confirmation of intention from either the student or the parent. In such cases, the district should discuss the implications of such decision with the student and parent to ensure the exemption is in the best interest of the student. Districts must inform the student and parent that the receipt of a diploma terminates the student's right to a free public education.

11. **Can parents decline an exemption from an assessment requirement?**
    The parents or persons in parental relation of **students who are eligible to graduate** in the 2020-21 school year and beyond **as a result of having met an assessment requirement through an exemption** at any time may decline such exemptions. Specifically, if the parent or person in parental relation explicitly declines the exemption of a Regents Examination, a NYSED Approved Alternative examination, a Pathway examination or an exemption to the unfinished Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential requirements applied to his/her child as a result of COVID, a diploma will not be conferred on such student this school year.

    Additional information can be referenced in the Parental Right to Decline Examination Waivers memo (December 2020) and the Parental Right to Decline Examination Waivers memo (May 2020). The Regents Examination Exemption Declination Form for Parents is also available.

12. **Is a student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021, and intended to retake the Regents in June 2021 or August 2021 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for the Regents Examination exemption?**
    No. Any student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021 is not eligible for the exam exemption.

13. **Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be exempted from the science assessment diploma requirement?**

[1] For the purpose of this document the term parent shall mean parent or person in parental relation

No. In December 2020, the NYSED issued Flexibility in the 1,200 Minute Science Laboratory Requirement. Students are not required to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences for either admission into a Regents Examination in science or exemption from the assessment requirement.

14. **May a student who is exempted from a Regents Examination due to COVID-19 be admitted to future administrations of the Regents Examination?**
Yes. Schools/districts shall provide opportunities for students who have not subsequently earned a diploma to attempt Regents Examinations in subsequent administration periods if students so choose.

15. **Are transfer students eligible for the Regents Examination exemptions?**
If a high school granted transfer credit for a course that typically culminates in a Regents Examination in the school granting credit and the student intended to take the Regents Examination in June 2021 or August 2021, the student is eligible for the exemption.

Example 1: A student transfers from an out-of-state high school to a NYS public high school in February 2021. The public high school awards transfer credit for US History & Government. The student intended to take the Regents Examination in June 2021. The student is eligible for the US History & Government Regents Examination exemption.

Example 2: A student transfers to a NYS high school in July from a private NYS high school that does not administer Regents Examinations. The NYS high school awards transfer credit for Algebra I. The student intended to take the Regents Examination in August 2021. The student is eligible for the Algebra I Regents Examination exemption.

16. **Can students earn credit by examination through the Regents Examination exemptions?**
No. Students cannot earn credit by examination using the exemptions due to COVID-19.

17. **Are homeschool students eligible for Regents Examination exemptions?**
No. Homeschool students are not enrolled in the high school, and do not earn diploma credit, which is a necessary component of eligibility for an exemption to a Regents Examination due to COVID-19. Homeschool students wishing to take a Regents Examination may be admitted to such examination during the next available examination administration.

While such students may not be exempted from a Regents Examination, a homeschool student shall be exempt from the annual assessment and alternative evaluation requirements for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years where such student otherwise achieves the learning outcomes in accordance with their Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP). Additional information may be referenced on NYSED's Home Instruction website.

18. **Will the process for filing for appeals and Superintendent Determination of Local Diplomas be the same for the 2020-21 school year as in prior years?**

Yes. However, the need for appeals will be greatly diminished as a result of the exemptions offered. Students eligible for an appeal and intending to retake a Regents Examination now qualify for an exemption, thus negating the need to process an appeal.

Coursework Completed Prior to Grade 9

19. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students in grade 7 who are taking a course culminating in a Regents Examination?

Yes. A student in grade 7 enrolled in a Regents level course who has met the standards assessed in course (passed the course) is eligible for an exemption of the diploma requirement. While this student is not eligible for diploma credit, as they are not yet in grade 8, the student is considered to have fulfilled the graduation assessment requirement in the applicable subject.

20. Do Regents Examination exemptions apply to students earning diploma credit through accelerated coursework in grade 8?

Yes. Any student in grade 8 enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents Examination who has met the standards assessed in course (passed the course) shall be granted an exemption from the examination and shall be granted the applicable diploma credit.

21. Can students earn diploma credit in Languages Other Than English (LOTE)/World Languages prior to grade 9 without successfully passing a locally developed Checkpoint A exam?

If the student has met the learning standards assessed in a course (passed the course) leading to the Checkpoint A LOTE/World Languages exam, the district may waive the examination requirement and grant the student their first unit of diploma credit in LOTE/World Languages.

Please note: the suggested timeslots for the locally-developed World Language Checkpoint A and B Exams are included on the June 2021 Regents Exam schedule because districts may still choose to administer these exams to their students. It is a local decision whether or not these assessments should be canceled.

Pathways, Department Approved Alternative Exams, and Technical Assessments

22. Can exemptions to +1 Pathway Assessments be granted?

Yes. Any student preparing to take a +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2021 or August 2021 may be granted an exemption to such assessment for the purposes of meeting diploma requirements. In order to qualify for the exemption to the graduation assessment requirement, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- Currently enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway assessment and earn credit in such course of study by the end of the 2020-21 school year;
- Previously enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway, achieved the applicable course credit, and has not yet passed the associated +1 Pathway assessment, but intended to take the test in spring or summer 2021 to achieve a passing score;

- Currently or previously identified as an English Language Learner (ELL), including provisionally identified ELLs, and Multilingual Learners (including heritage language speakers) whose home language is one of the languages tested by the NYSED-approved LOTE/World Languages +1 Pathway Assessments (Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Korean, or Spanish), or a student deemed qualified by the principal in consultation with relevant faculty, and was intended to take the LOTE/World Languages +1 Assessment in Spring or Summer 2021 to achieve a passing score; or
- Deemed qualified by the principal in consultation with relevant faculty in the use of American Sign Language (ASL) and intended to take the LOTE/World Languages +1 Pathway Assessment in ASL in Spring or Summer 2021 to achieve a passing score.

23. Can a student be exempt from the Department Approved CDOS assessment (CDOS, option 2)?

An exemption from a CDOS +1 Pathway Exam can be given if a determination has been made that the student has otherwise demonstrated the knowledge and skills outlined in the commencement level CDOS learning standards, and the student met the expectations of the course taken in preparation for such examination**,** if applicable.

24. Can a student be exempt from the graduation assessment requirement of a Department Approved Alternative Examination?

All Department Approved Alternative Examinations are also considered +1 Pathway Exams. Students can be exempt from such examination requirement if one of the following conditions have been met:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Department Approved Alternative Examination and by the end of the 2020-21 school year will have earned credit in such course of study; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course leading to an applicable examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated examination but intended to take the test in Spring or Summer 2021 to achieve a passing score.

25. Can a student be exempt from the graduation assessment requirement for the three-part CTE Technical Assessment leading to the CTE +1 Pathway?

Yes. Students enrolled in NYSED approved CTE programs culminating in a CTE Pathway who earn the applicable program credit by the end of the 2020-21 school year and intended to take the CTE +1 Pathway Assessment are exempt from the assessment for graduation purposes.

Students enrolled in programs that culminate in an assessment leading to an industry credential are exempt from passing the assessment for the purposes of meeting diploma requirements. However, districts should make every attempt to provide students with the opportunity to take such assessments for the purposes of earning an industry certification.

Examples of such assessments include:

- the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) entry-level Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) exam which leads to industry certification for students seeking a career in the automotive service industry, and

- the Certiport Adobe Certified Associate—Illustrator exam which leads to industry certification for students seeking a career in graphic design.

26. If a student is on track to take an industry credential examination in Spring or Summer 2021 and graduates due to an exemption to the diploma requirements, can that student return to school to complete his/her technical preparation and take such examination in the future?

NYSED encourages schools and BOCES to offer students the opportunity to complete the written and performance components of technical skills exams through alternatives arranged with the test vendor or once schools/testing sites are able to safely administer them. This encouragement is not directed toward enabling students to take assessments which are not necessary to enter the industry, such as a NOCTI examination, but rather assessments that carry an industry advantage or lead to a credential. Additional information can be referenced in the memo pertaining to Flexibility for the administration of technical skills exams conferring industry-recognized credentials to secondary career and technical education students.

27. If a student is exempt from the three-part CTE Technical Assessment for graduation purposes, will such student still get the technical endorsement on his/her diploma?

In the case of the CTE Technical Endorsement, districts may grant an exemption of the three-part technical assessment for students scheduled to complete their technical studies who have also earned the applicable credits in a Department Approved CTE program. So long as students complete the program of study and earn the applicable credits, they are exempted from the technical assessment and shall earn the CTE Technical Endorsement on their diploma.

28. Can a student be exempt from the unfinished requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential?

Students who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2020-21 school year and have not met all of the requirements due to COVID-19 may be granted the CDOS Commencement Credential, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

Students who are awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without having met all of the requirements may use the credential:

- for the purpose of meeting the CDOS +1 Pathway to a diploma;
- as their only exiting credential, provided the student:
  - has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere; or
  - has reached the end of the school year in which they attain the age of 21; or
- for students with disabilities, for the purpose of meeting the English language arts and/or Mathematics Regents Examination eligibility conditions for the Superintendent's Determination option.

29. **Can a student be exempted from the CDOS credential requirements if students are continuing their high school education beyond the 2020-21 school year?**
Students may be exempted from requirements that were missed due to COVID-19; however, students must fulfill any requirements scheduled or planned for subsequent school years.

30. **Does the exemption from the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements include a waiver from the requirements for a student to have completed a career plan and at least one employability profile?**
No. While this waiver existed for students graduating in June 2020 or August 2020, moving forward, students should have at least one employability profile and a career plan completed within a year of graduation.

31. **Will Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) exams be administered this spring?**
AP: The 2021 AP exam schedule provides three testing dates in two formats (paper and pencil or digital) for each subject between early May and mid-June. Individual schools will choose the testing date and the format for their students. Additional information can be reference on the College Board's website.

IB: In February, the IB announced a dual route to the May 2021 assessments. Schools will confirm with the IB whether they will administer IB exams this May or take the non-exam route. Additional information on the administration of IB exams can be referenced on the International Baccalaureate Organization's website.

Students with Disabilities

32. **For students with disabilities that meet the requirements to earn a Local Diploma through the Superintendent Determination Option and have been working toward earning a CDOS Credential, may a district waive the required 216 hours of CTE coursework (at least 54 hours of which must be work-based learning)?**
Yes. Students with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2020-21 school year may be awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without having met all of the requirements, for purposes of eligibility for the superintendent determination option, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.

33. **If a student with a disability has access to safety net options or appeals leading to a local diploma, should schools consider exempted exams to represent a score of 55 or 65?**
All Regents Examination exemptions should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations involving safety net options or appeals. However, students with disabilities eligible for the compensatory safety net option may not use exemptions on tests to compensate for lower test scores (Refer to Question 34 for additional information).

Note: No numeric score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

34. **Students with a disability have access to the compensatory safety net option where a 65 or above on one exam can compensate for a 45-54 on another exam. Can an exempted Regents Examination be used to compensate a lower Regents Examination score (45-54 on science and social studies Regents Exams only) using the compensatory safety net option?**
    No. A Regents Examination exemption cannot be used to compensate for the score below 65 on a different Regents Examination.

35. **If a student with a disability previously met assessment requirements for a local diploma using safety net options, but intended to retake one or more of the Regents Examinations in June or August 2021 in attempt to achieve a score of 65 or higher, can the student use the exemption from such examinations to earn a Regents diploma?**
    Yes. Any student who previously earned diploma credit in a course culminating in a Regents Examination, earned a score lower than 65 on the associated Regents, and intended to retake the exam in June or August 2021 is eligible for the exemption.

36. **Can students receiving entirely remote instruction who did not take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) this year, still be awarded the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential?**
    Yes. A student with a severe cognitive disability who was unable to take the secondary-level NYSAA during the 2020-21 school year due to receiving entirely remote instruction, and is exiting from high school in June or August 2021, may be awarded the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential as long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

English Language Learners (ELLs) and Other Multilingual Learners

37. **Is the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT canceled?**
    No. NYSED plans to make its Spring 2021 NYSESLAT available for administration to those ELLs who are able to test in-person. Schools are not required to bring students into the building to participate in the tests if they are receiving entirely remote instruction; however, schools are strongly encouraged to conduct outreach to the parents/guardians of remote-only ELLs to inquire as to whether they would like to make arrangements to have their child participate in person in the school building in the NYSESLAT during the testing window. This outreach, to the best extent possible, is to be provided in the parents preferred language and mode of communication.

38. **If an English Language Learner is eligible to appeal the Regents Examination in English Language Arts with a score between 55-59, should schools consider exempted exams to represent a score of 55 or 65?**
    All Regents Examination exemptions should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations involving safety net options or appeals.

    Note: No numeric score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

39. Are students intending to take a Checkpoint B examination in a Language Other than English (LOTE)/World Languages exempted from the associated diploma requirement?

Yes. Students who earn credit in a course that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of a Checkpoint B LOTE/World Languages exam and intended to take such exam in June or August 2021 may be exempted from the associated diploma requirement.

Please note: the suggested timeslots for the locally-developed World Language Checkpoint A and B Exams are included on the June 2021 Regents Exam schedule because districts may still choose to administer these exams to their students. It is a local decision whether or not these assessments should be canceled.

40. Can a student earn associated points towards the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) if the student is granted an exemption from a Regents Examination in English Language Arts?

Yes. A student who has received an exemption from a Regents Examination in English Language Arts (ELA) can apply this exemption towards criterion 1A of the NYSSB's "Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in English" so long as the student has demonstrated proficiency in the ELA learning standards assessed through the provided coursework and earned credit for such course that culminates in a Regents Examination in ELA by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

41. Can an English Language Learner (ELL) earn associated points towards the NYSSB if the student is granted exemptions from two Regents Examinations to fulfill the requirements for criterion 1A of the NYSSB of earning a score of 75% or better on two Regents Examinations other than ELA without translation?

Yes. ELLs who, due to COVID-19-related school closures, have received exemptions from two Regents Examination in subjects other than ELA without translation can apply those exemptions towards criterion 1A of the NYSSB's "Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in English" so long as the student has demonstrated proficiency in the course learning standards assessed through the provided coursework and earned credit for such courses.

Advanced Designation and Endorsements

42. Can students with assessment exemptions still earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?

Yes. Any students granted exemption(s) from assessment requirements due to COVID-19 are not required to pass such exam(s) necessary for any diploma type. This includes the Regents with Advanced Designation.

Example: A student is scheduled to take the Algebra II Regents Examination and the ELA Regents Examination in June 2021. The student passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Such student will not be required to pass the Regents Examinations in ELA and Algebra II but will still earn the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation if all other requirements are met.

43. Can a district exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B Languages Other Than English (LOTE)/World Languages examination in order for students to meet the requirements for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?
A district may exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B examination to meet the requirements for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation if the student earns at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE/World Languages subject by August 2021.

44. Can students earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if they are exempt from a mathematics or science Regents Examination needed for such endorsement?
Yes. Students may earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if the student meets the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and:

- passes 3 math and/or 3 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher; or
- passes 2 math and/or 2 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher and has been granted an exemption on a third math and/or science Regents Examination; or
- passes 1 math and/or 1 science Regents Examination with an 85 or higher and has earned a final course grade of 85 or higher in 2 additional math and/or science courses culminating in a Regents Examination for which they were granted an exemption.

Example 1: A student has earned a 90 on the Algebra I Regents Examination, an 87 on the Geometry Regents Examination, and received an exemption from the Algebra II Regents Examination. This student passed 2 Regents Examinations with an 85 or above and received an exemption from a third Regents Examination in mathematics, therefore the student earned the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement.

Example 2: A student earned a 90 on the Living Environment Regents Examination, a 96 on the Earth Science Regents Examination, and an exemption from both the Chemistry Regents Examination and the Physics Regents Examination. Since the student passed two science Regents Examinations with an 85 or above and received an exemption from a third Regents Examination in science, the student is deemed to have met the requirements for the Mastery in Science endorsement. In this case, the student's final course grade does not need to be considered.

Example 3: A student passed the Algebra I Regents Examination with an 85, received an exemption from the Geometry Regents in June 2020, and received an exemption from the Algebra II Regents Examination in June 2021. If the student earned a course grade of 85 or above in both Geometry and Algebra II, the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement will be added to the student's diploma.

45. Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions?
Yes. The calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents Examinations the student has.

Students with a minimum of three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

In instances where students have at least three scored Regents Examinations to be included in the assessments required for the diploma type, exemptions due to COVID-19 would be removed from the calculation. If the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Example: A student meets the assessment requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with the following examination scores:

- English Regents, exemption
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Geometry, 94
- Algebra II, exemption
- Living Environment Regents, 90
- Earth Science Regents, 89
- Chemistry, exemption
- Global Studies Regents, 98

Since the student has at least three scored Regents Examinations, the exemptions may be removed from the calculation for the honors endorsement.

Computed Average: 92 + 94 + 90 + 89 + 98 ÷ 5 = 92.6

Since the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma type equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement. The student's final course grades do not need to be considered in this case, since the student has at least three scored Regents Examinations.

Students with fewer than three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

The student's final course grade for each exempted Regents Examination will be substituted in the calculation for honors. If the computed average of the scored Regents Examinations and the final course grades for courses for which exemptions were granted equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Example: A student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following examination scores:

- English Regents, exemption
  - *Final course grade, 94*
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Earth Science Regents, 89
- Global Regents, exemption
  - *Final course grade, 96*
- US History, exemption (+1 pathway)
  - *Final course grade, 88*

Since the student has fewer than three scored Regents Examinations, the student's final course grades for the courses for which exemptions were granted must be substituted in the calculation for the honors endorsement.

Computed Average:

94 + 92 + 89 + *96* + *88* ÷ 5 = 91.8

Since the computed average of the two Regents Examination scores (92, 89) and the final course grades (*94, 96, 88*) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

46. How should Department Approved Alternatives be considered in the calculation for the honors endorsement?

Students may substitute no more than two Department Approved Alternatives for the required Regents Examinations. Department Approved Alternatives would be removed from the computed average.

Example: A student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following examination scores:

- English Regents, exemption
  - *Final course grade, 88*
- Algebra I Regents, 92
- Living Environment Regents, 90
- US History Regents, exemption
  - *Final course grade, 98*
- AP Biology Exam, exemption (+1 pathway)

Since the student has only one Department Approved Alternative included in the exams applicable to the diploma, it will be removed from the computed average. Additionally, since the student has only two scored Regents Examinations, the final course grades must be included in the computed average for those Regents Examinations for which an exemption was granted.

Computed Average:

88 + 92 + 90 + 98 ÷ 4 = 92

Since the computed average of the two Regents Examination scores (92, 90) and the final course grades (*88, 98*) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

47. If a student takes one of the four Regents Examinations administered in June 2021 (Earth Science, Living Environment, ELA, or Algebra I) and scores poorly, but has a final course average that would benefit them in the Mastery or Honors calculation, can the course average be used in such calculation rather than the score on the June 2021 Regents Examination?

Yes. In cases where a student does take one of the 4 Regents Examinations administered in June 2021, schools may use either the final course average or the score on the Regents Examination, whichever is most beneficial to the student in the calculation for Mastery or Honors. Substitutions of course averages for Regents examinations taken prior to June 2021 are <u>not</u> permitted.

Recording Students Scores

48. **If a district includes Regents Examination scores in the calculation of the final course grade, what does the Department recommend districts use in lieu of the Regents Examination score?**
    The NYSED does not encourage the use of Regents Examination grades in final course grades as Regents Examination scores are scaled scores and not percentage scores typically used for course averages. Please reference the 2019 Edition School Administrator's Manual for Regents Examinations, page 32. Grading policies are determined by each local Board of Education. This includes any decisions to use Regents Examination scores in final course grade calculations. Districts may need to amend local grading policies if they use Regents Examination grades as part of students' final grade average.

49. **If a student takes a Regents Examination in June 2021 (Algebra I, Earth Science (written test only), English Language Arts, and/or Living Environment), must the school/district record the student's score on the student's transcript?**
    Schools and districts must record the score of any Regents Examination on a student's permanent record. **The choice to record a score or an "E" for exempt on a student's transcript should be made in consultation with the student, and the student's choice for official transcript purposes should be respected whenever possible.**

50. **How should schools reflect examination exemptions on a student's transcript?**
    Student transcripts should not reflect a numeric score for any examination where the student is granted an exemption. Student transcripts should reflect the examination name and a score of "E" for exempt.

51. **How should exemptions be reported?**
    Information related to reporting exemptions may be referenced on the Department's Student Information Repository System (SIRS) Manual.

52. **If a student with an exempted exam decides to take the exam during future administration dates, would the exemption or the scored exam be reported?**
    While all scored exams will be reported to the NYSED and included on students' permanent records, for the purpose of diploma type and endorsements, students can use the exam scores that most benefit them.

Additional questions about exemptions from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to emscgradreq@nysed.gov.

Note: As additional questions arise, they will be added to this document on an ongoing basis.

Revision Log

03/24/21	Amended question: 16
04/07/21	Additional question: 11, Amended question: 27