

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT 89 Washington Avenue, Room 775 EBA Albany, New York 12234

May 2025

TO: District Superintendents

Superintendents of Schools Charter School Leaders

Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools

FROM: Zachary Warner, Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: Weather and Extreme Heat Conditions During the June and August

Regents Examination Periods

With the onset of warmer weather, the New York State Education Department ("the Department") is reminding administrators of flexibilities that may be used during the administration of June and August Regents Examinations to ensure the health and safety of everyone in school buildings.

While there are no provisions for weather-related cancellation or rescheduling of June and August Regents Examinations, schools may choose a location to administer the exams that differs from their typical practice should it be deemed necessary based on weather conditions, including extreme heat. Alternate locations must comply with the requirements found in the School Administrator's Manual and provide a conducive environment for student testing. Such locations require an active Certificate of Occupancy for instructional use from the Department's Office of Facilities Planning, and could include school libraries, school buildings other than the high school, or BOCES facilities. Questions about occupancy for instructional use can be directed to this office at FireSafety@nysed.gov.

If an alternate location is chosen, it is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that examinations are kept secure during transport and in the control of a responsible school staff member until they are handed out to students. Exams should continue to be stored in the approved safe or vault until the time that they are to be transported to the testing location. At that time the exams should be transported in a lockbox both to and from the alternate location.

School administrators should reach out to the Department's Office of State Assessment with any questions. This office can advise on all considerations surrounding the administration of the Regents Examinations and ensure that security policies are followed. This office can be reached at examrequest@nysed.gov or by phone at 518-474-8220.