

# June and August 2021 Regents Exam Waiver Guidance (COVID-19)

Due to the cancellation of all but four of the Regents exams scheduled to be administered in June 2021<sup>1</sup> and all of the Regents exams scheduled to be administered in August 2021, certain students are eligible for Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exam waivers.

This guidance document includes the eligibility criteria and policies related to June and August 2021 exam waivers. Schools are responsible for identifying all eligible students and certifying that they meet requirements for these waivers. Schools must proactively plan for and identify both currently eligible and potentially eligible students so that they have a clear understanding of the expectations for meeting these requirements.

For questions about these requirements, contact your [academic policy and systems lead](#).

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<sup>1</sup> NYSED plans to administer only four Regents examinations (Algebra I, Earth Science (written test only), English Language Arts, and Living Environment) in June 2021 while they await a response from the United States Department of Education (USDE) on their waiver request. 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 2021.

## DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

### Determining Eligibility for June and August 2021 Regents Exam Waivers

To be eligible for a June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waivers and receive a waiver from the associated diploma requirement, a student must meet **one** of the following requirements:

- Be currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents exam 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 exam, 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 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 or August 2021 to achieve a passing score.

Taking Regents exams offered in June 2021 has no bearing on students' eligibility for the corresponding Regents waiver. If students meet the eligibility criteria for a Regents waiver, they must be granted the waiver unless the parent declines as described in [PARENTAL RIGHT TO DECLINE REGENTS WAIVERS](#). The same eligibility criteria apply regardless of whether a student passes, fails, or does not take the associated Regents exam in June 2021.

If a student is taking a course that is designed to end in a Regents exam after June 2021 or August 2021, they are not eligible for the June and/or August 2021 waiver.

**Note:** If a high school granted transfer credit for a course that typically culminates in a Regents exam in the school granting credit and the student intended to take the Regents exam in June and/or August 2021, the student is eligible for the waiver.

Schools with any questions pertaining to student eligibility for a Regents exam waiver should reach out to their [academic policy and systems lead](#) as soon as possible to discuss the student's specific scenario.

### Documenting Intention to Take a June and/or August 2021 Regents Exam

Students who were previously enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam, earned all course credit in the sequence, and have not yet passed the associated Regents exam may be eligible for a June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waiver if they were intending to take the test in June and/or August 2021 to achieve a passing score. Evidence of intending to take the test may include the following:

- the student informed the school that they wished to retake the exam, as documented by school staff, or
- the student was receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction, or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the exam.

If a student has met all the eligibility requirements for the Regents waiver, **the school must honor the student or parent/guardian confirmation of intention**. In such cases, the school should discuss the implications of this decision with the student and parent to ensure the waiver is in the best interest of the student. Schools must inform the student and parent that the receipt of a diploma terminates the student's right to a free and appropriate public education.

### Determining Eligibility for June and/or August 2021 +1 Pathway Assessments

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

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway assessment and earns credit in such course of study by the end of the 2020-21 school year;
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to the +1 Pathway, achieved the applicable course credit, has not yet passed the associated +1 Pathway assessment, and intended to take the test in spring or summer 2021 to achieve a passing score;
- The student is currently or was 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 intended to take the LOTE/World Languages +1 Assessment in Spring or Summer 2021 to achieve a passing score; or
- The student is 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.

If a student is taking a course that is designed to end in a +1 Pathway exam after June and/or August 2021, they are not eligible for the June and/or August 2021 waiver.

**Note:** If a high school granted transfer credit for a course that typically culminates in a +1 Pathway Assessment in the school granting credit and the student intended to take the +1 Pathway Assessment in June and/or August 2021, the student is eligible for the waiver.

Schools with any questions pertaining to student eligibility for a +1 Pathway Assessment waiver should reach out to their [academic policy and systems lead](#) as soon as possible to discuss the student's specific scenario.

### Determining Eligibility for Middle School Students

Students in grade 7 or grade 8, enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents, SLP, or LOTE exam who meet the learning outcomes for such course of study by June and/or August 2021 are eligible to receive an exam waiver to be used towards the associated diploma requirement. Students demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes by passing the course.

## Regents Exams

Middle school students may earn Regents waivers and/or course credits if they are either of the following:

- A student in grade 7 enrolled in a Regents-level course who has met the standards assessed in the course (passed the course) is eligible for a waiver of the diploma requirement. While this student is not eligible for diploma credit, the student is considered to have fulfilled the graduation exam requirement in the applicable subject.
- Any student in grade 8 enrolled in a course culminating in a Regents exam who has met the standards assessed in course (passed the course) shall be granted a waiver from the exam and shall be granted the applicable diploma credit.

## Languages Other Than English (LOTE)/World Languages Prior to Grade 9

Schools may grant eligible students two credits in LOTE/World Languages and a waiver of the Checkpoint A (SLP exam) or Checkpoint B (LOTE) exam if the student has met the learning standards assessed in a course (passed the course) in the following ways:

- Pass a one-unit LOTE course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade aligned to Checkpoint A → Student is eligible for two credits in LOTE/World Languages and a waiver of the Checkpoint A (SLP exam)
- Pass two units aligned to Checkpoint A at any time prior to grade 9 → student is eligible for two credits in LOTE/World Languages and a waiver of the Checkpoint A (SLP exam)
- Pass three units aligned to Checkpoint B culminating in 8<sup>th</sup> grade → Student is eligible for two credits in LOTE/World Languages and a waiver of the Checkpoint B (LOTE exam)

## PARENTAL RIGHT TO DECLINE REGENTS WAIVERS

According to a [memo issued by NYSED](#) on December 8, 2020, parents/guardians of students eligible to graduate by the end of the 2020-21 school year have the option to decline the Regents exam waivers for graduation. If a parent/guardian explicitly declines the Regents exam waiver toward graduation requirements, the student must not receive a diploma in the 2020-21 school year.

**Declining a Regents exam waiver due to COVID-19 is a permanent decision. Students whose parents decline Regents waiver(s) must continue to prepare for a future administration of the required Regents exam(s) and pass those exams to graduate.**

Schools must notify families of all students scheduled to graduate by the end of the 2020-21 school year who have already received or are eligible to receive Regents exam waivers.

School must use the template in [Email to Parents and Guardians of Graduating Students](#) to notify families **at least 30 calendar days prior to the date on which a student shall receive a high school**

**diploma.** <sup>2</sup> After receiving the initial email notifying them of their right, the parent/guardian must specify whether they are declining all exam waivers, declining none of the exam waivers, or indicate that they wish to speak with someone about their options before making a final decision by replying back to the email. <sup>3</sup> Refer to the [Guidance for Sharing Student Records with Families During Remote Learning](#) for information about emailing parents securely.

**Schools may not graduate students with IEPs who were planning to continue their education beyond the 2020-21 school year until their parent confirms in writing that the student should graduate.** For all other students, if the parent does not reply with a preference to decline one or more Regents waivers by the deadline, the waivers must be granted. If school staff do not receive a response from a parent as the deadline approaches, they must make every effort to follow up using other communication methods, including phone and mail.

Schools must save all correspondence and documentation related to the Regents waiver process in a secure location so that it is retained in students' permanent records. For students with IEPs, schools must upload the correspondence into SESIS in Documents Related to Placement and then link the event in the event log to the document.

#### **Deadlines for June and/or August 2021 Regents Exam Waivers**

Schools must notify families of students scheduled to graduate by the end of the 2020-21 school year who are eligible to waive one or more Regents exams by **at a minimum, 30 calendar days prior to the date on which a student shall receive a high school diploma.**

Families that reply with a preference to decline one or more Regents waivers should not be scheduled to receive those waivers.

Families that reply with a preference to decline one or more Regents waivers that have been applied **prior to discharging the student as a graduate** should reach out to their [academic policy and systems lead](#) as soon as possible.

Schools must not schedule students with IEPs who were planning to continue their education beyond the 2020-21 school year to receive Regents exam waivers until their parent confirms in writing that the student should graduate.

#### **GUIDANCE FOR EXTENDED COURSE SEQUENCES**

NYSED requires students to have demonstrated proficiency in a subject area by having passed all Regents-culminating courses necessary for preparing a student for an exam. This means having taken

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<sup>2</sup> NYSED requires schools to notify families of students scheduled to graduate in June and/or August 2021 who are eligible to waive one or more Regents exams at a minimum, 30 calendar days prior to the date on which a student shall receive a high school diploma.

<sup>3</sup> Schools wishing to do so may incorporate a Google form into the email text as an additional option for collecting parent responses. A sample Google form that schools may copy is available [here](#). The language in these communications must replicate the DOE-provided letter. Schools must accept all parent responses regardless of the communication method, except for students with IEPs indicating their plan to return for a fifth or sixth year, which must be received in writing.

courses that include all standards for the course in the case of math and science. Coding sequences can be found in the [HS Course Code Directory](#) (Appendix A).

**Single year courses:** Students in courses that are scheduled to be completed in one year, including US History and single-year math and science sequences, must earn credit for every term in the sequence, for a total of 2 credits.

Example: a student in a cycle-based US History course must earn credit in HUF41, HUF42, HUF43, and HUF44.

**Extended Math and Science Sequences:** Students in extended sequences of math and science courses are eligible for the waiver if they have earned credit in every term of the sequence.

Example: a student in a six trimester Algebra course sequence would have to pass MET61, MET62, MET63, MET64, MET65, and MET66 to be eligible.

**English:** Students in English sequences are eligible for the waiver if their sequence leads to the Regents in June and/or August 2021, as evidenced in the course syllabus or other course content documentation, with the appropriate 11th grade text complexity preparing students for the Regents at the end of the sequence. Students must pass all credits in the English sequence leading up to the Regents exam to be eligible for the Regents waiver.

- Students whose coursework prepares them to take the exam at the end of 11th grade must earn credit for all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade courses, for a total of 6 credits.
- Students in lower grade levels may be eligible for the Regents waiver if the course was designed so that students were prepared to take the Regents in June and/or August 2021 as evidenced in the course content documentation.

Example: A student at a semester school whose coursework prepares them to take the exam in January of 11<sup>th</sup> grade would have to pass EES81, EES82, EES83, EES84, and EES85 for a total of five credits by June or August 2021 to be eligible.

Example: A student at an annual term school whose coursework prepares them to take the exam at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade who passes EEN41 and EEN42 for a total of four credits by June or August 2021 is eligible.

**Global History:** Students are eligible for the waiver of the Global II exam if they have earned all credits in Global 10.

Example: a student who passes HGN22 (second year of an annual term global sequence) or HGS43 and HGS44 (semesters 3 and 4 of a semester-based global sequence) is eligible.

**Other Considerations:** Some students, such as transfer students and students who may have taken make-up courses, may have taken course sequences that do not follow the traditional coding conventions. In these cases, even if course codes on the transcript do not follow an exact sequence, students meet the course of study requirement for the waiver if they pass courses that demonstrate proficiency in the entirety of a sequence. If students have successfully completed a sequence of courses

that spans the entire scope of learning standards for that subject, they meet the eligibility requirements for the waiver.

Example: A student passes SLS21 (1 credit) and fails SLS22 (1 credit), then transfers to a school and passes in SLT33 (1 credit). If the student has covered all the Living Environment content through this sequence, they are eligible for the waiver.

If a student is taking a course that is designed to end in a Regents exam after June and/or August 2021, they are not eligible for the June and/or August 2021 waiver.

## **IDENTIFYING AND SCHEDULING WAIVER-ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN STARS**

Guidance is forthcoming regarding scheduling students for Regents waivers in STARS so that they appear on students' transcripts. At this time, schools should refrain from scheduling students for Regents waivers in sections 91 and 92 as described in previous guidance for June and August 2020 and January 2021.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **General**

#### **1. Which exams are cancelled in June 2021 and August 2021?**

At this time, the NYSED plans to administer only the following Regents exams: Algebra 1, Earth Science (written test only), English Language Arts (ELA), and Living Environment in June 2021. This guidance will be updated if this information changes in the future.

NYSED will not administer any Regents exams in August 2021.

#### **2. Are students that are enrolled in one of the four courses culminating in an administered Regents exam (Algebra I, Earth Science, ELA, Living Environment) required to take the associated Regents exam for graduation?**

No. These assessments will be administered in-person to students who are interested in taking them. All students who meet the eligibility requirements for a Regents waiver must be granted the waiver unless the parent declines as described in [Parental Right to Decline Regents Waivers](#). See the [Principals' Hub](#) for the latest information about Regents exam administration.

#### **3. Will students still be entitled to Regents waivers if they take Regents exams administered in June 2021?**

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 corresponding Regents waiver if they meet the eligibility criteria.

#### **4. If a student takes a Regents exam in June 2021 (Algebra I, Earth Science, ELA, Living Environment), must the school record the student's score on the transcript alongside Regents waivers?**

Guidance on how to record a student's performance on a June 2021 Regents exam is forthcoming. This guidance will ensure that the best possible outcome is displayed on students' transcripts for a given exam, regardless of whether they take the Regents. Taking a June 2021 Regents exam will not impact a student's eligibility for the Regents waiver.

**5. What resources are available to support me in identifying the right students for waivers?**

Schools must take care to evaluate student transcripts to ensure whether students meet the requirements detailed in [Determining Eligibility](#) and update student transcripts prior to scheduling students for their associated exams.

Schools can use [Insight](#) to view each student's progress toward graduation based on their credits and exams as well as a variety of other academic information. Insight will account for waived Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exams in displaying whether students have met exam requirements.

Schools can reach out to their [academic policy and systems lead](#) for support with questions about individual scenarios.

**6. Can students opt out of a Regents waiver?**

No student can opt out of a Regents waiver, even if they are age 18 or over. Only parents and/or guardians have the right to decline any Regents waivers. See [Parental Right to Decline Regents Waivers](#) for more information.

**7. Can students earn credit by examination through the Regents exam waivers?**

No. Students cannot earn credit by examination using the Regents exam waivers.

**8. Are homeschool students eligible for Regents exam waivers?**

No. Homeschool students are not enrolled in the high school, and do not earn diploma credit, which is a necessary component of eligibility for a Regents exam waiver. Homeschool students wishing to take a Regents exam may be admitted to such exam during the next available exam administration.

**9. Is a student who passed a Regents exam with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021, and intended to retake the Regents in June and/or August 2021 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for the Regents exam waiver?**

No. Any student who passed a Regents exam with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021 is not eligible for the exam waiver.

**10. Do students need to meet laboratory requirements in order to be eligible to receive a science Regents exam waiver?**

As part of remote learning, schools must prepare students for the performance components of the Regents exams in science as well as written questions based on the process skills students acquire through laboratory experiences. However, students are not required to meet the 1,200-minute



requirement to sit for a science Regents exam in the 2020-21 school year or to be eligible for a Regents exam waiver in science.

**11. Which school should apply Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exam waivers for students who are on shared instruction at YABCs?**

It is the YABC's responsibility to program their students for courses and State and local exams. Therefore, the YABC is responsible for determining eligibility and scheduling students for Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exam waivers. The home school is still responsible for issuing a high school diploma and/or CDOS credential when the student meets the appropriate requirements. Please review [Supporting Students at YABCs](#) for more information on the responsibilities of YABCs and home schools.

**12. How do the exam waivers apply to students discharged with a code 39 (missing one or more Regents) who planned to take Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exam in June and/or August 2021?**

As long as these students 1) previously earned course credit in the subject area, including all courses in the sequence, and 2) intended to take the exam in June and/or August 2021 to achieve a passing score, they are eligible for the waiver.

**13. How should schools record Regents exam waivers for science and global history for students who transfer into New York State in grade 11 or 12?**

Schools should use the existing procedures described on page 28 of the [High School Academic Policy Guide](#). These waivers are recorded using the transfer Regents exam codes ending in "W," to distinguish them from the June and/or August 2021 Regents exam codes used for COVID-related Regents exam waivers.

**Other Pathway Assessments, NYSED-Approved Alternative Exams, and Technical Assessments**

**14. Do the June and August 2021 Regents waivers apply to NYSED-approved alternative exams, including performance-based assessment tasks (PBATs)?**

Yes. All NYSED-approved alternative exams are also considered +1 Pathway Exams. Students can be exempt from such exam requirements if one of the following conditions have been met:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a NYSED-approved alternative exam 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 exam, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated exam but intended to take the test in Spring or Summer 2021 to achieve a passing score.

**15. Can a student receive a waiver 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 eligible to receive a waiver 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, schools should make every attempt to provide students with the opportunity to take such assessments for the purposes of earning an industry certification.

**16. If a student receives a waiver from the three-part CTE Technical Assessment for graduation purposes, will such student still get the technical endorsement on their diploma?**

In the case of the CTE Technical Endorsement, schools may grant a waiver of the three-part technical assessment for students scheduled to complete their technical studies and who have been successful thus far in their coursework. Consideration should be given to length of program, percent of program unfinished, and whether the student has demonstrated the technical skills and knowledge to warrant such endorsement.

The three-part technical assessment shall be waived for the purpose of meeting the +1 pathway to a diploma; however, schools must make an individual determination of knowledge and skill attainment in granting the Technical Endorsement. See the [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) guide](#) for information on documenting the CTE endorsement and +1 pathway waiver.

**17. Can a student receive an exam waiver from the CDOS +1 Pathway assessment?**

A waiver 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 exam, if applicable.

**18. Can a student be exempted from the arts +1 Pathway assessment?**

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. See the section on [Determining Eligibility for June and/or August 2021 +1 Pathway Assessments](#) for eligibility criteria.

## Graduation – General

**19. Do schools need to withhold graduation for every student with an IEP until they receive a decision from the parent?**

Schools must not graduate students with IEPs who were planning to continue their education beyond the 2020-21 school year until they have received a decision from the parent.

Schools must receive documented confirmation from the student's parent/guardian that they want their student to graduate rather than remain in school, and this documentation must be uploaded in SESIS in order to award the diploma, even when contact has been attempted.

For all other students (including students with IEPs who were not planning to continue their education beyond the 2020-21 school year), if the parent does not reply with a preference to decline one or more Regents waivers by the deadline, the waivers must be granted.

**20. If a parent previously declined a Regents exam waiver with the expectation that their child would have the opportunity to sit for the exam in June and/or August 2021, can they now revoke that decision and have the June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waiver applied due to the cancellation of June and August 2021 Regents exams?**

While previous parent declinations of Regents exam waivers are irrevocable, if students are currently eligible for a June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waiver, students could use the June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waiver(s) to graduate.

**21. If a student with a disability has access to safety net options or appeals leading to a local diploma or if an English Language Learner is eligible to appeal the Regents exam in English Language Arts with a score between 55-59, should schools consider exam waivers to represent a score of 55 or 65?**

All Regents exam waivers should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations involving safety net options or appeals.

**22. Can a Regents exam waiver be used to compensate a lower Regents exam score?**

All Regents exam waivers should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations involving safety net options or appeals.

Students with disabilities eligible for the compensatory safety net option may not use waivers on tests to compensate for lower test scores.

**23. 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 exams in June and/or August 2021 in attempt to achieve a score of 65 or higher, can the student use the waiver from such exams to earn a Regents diploma?**

Yes. Any student who previously earned diploma credit in a course culminating in a Regents exam, earned a score lower than 65 on the associated Regents, and intended to retake the exam in June and/or August 2021 is eligible for the waiver.

**24. Will schools submit Regents appeals (low score, Safety Net, or new arrival ELL) and superintendent determinations to superintendents in June and August 2021?**

Yes. Schools should still submit appeals and requests for superintendent determinations for students who meet the eligibility requirements for these options and do not meet the exam requirements through the existing flexibilities. If a student is eligible to waive a Regents and/or LOTE/World Languages exam that would have otherwise been appealed, it is not necessary to submit that appeal to the superintendent.

**25. Can students who receive exam waivers still earn an advanced Regents Diploma?**

Yes. Any students granted waiver(s) from assessment requirements due to COVID-19 are not required to pass such exam(s) necessary for any diploma type. This includes advanced Regents diplomas.

**26. Can a student use a Checkpoint B LOTE/World Languages exam waiver to meet the requirements for an advanced Regents diploma?**

A student can use the exam waiver to meet the requirements for the advanced Regents diploma if the student earns at least 6 diploma credits in the corresponding LOTE/World Languages subject by August 2021.

**Graduation – Credentials, Endorsements, and Honors**

**27. Can a student receive a waiver 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 exam eligibility conditions for the Superintendent’s Determination option.

**28. Does the waiver 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 and/or August 2020, moving forward, students should have at least one employability profile and a career plan completed within a year of graduation.

**29. Can a student waive the CDOS credential requirements if students are continuing their high school education beyond the 2020-21 school year?**

Students may receive a waiver from requirements that were missed due to COVID-19; however, students must fulfill any requirements scheduled or planned for subsequent school years.

**30. Can students earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if they receive exam waivers in a mathematics or science Regents exam needed for such endorsement?**

Yes. Students may earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if the student meets the requirements for an advanced Regents diploma and:

- passes 3 math and/or 3 science Regents exams with a score of 85 or higher; or
- passes 2 math and/or 2 science Regents exams with a score of 85 or higher and has been granted a waiver on a third math and/or science Regents exam; or
- passes 1 math and/or 1 science Regents exam 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 exam for which they were granted a waiver.

Refer to the [Grading Policy for 2020-21](#) for the allowable scale of marks awarded during the 2020-21 academic year. Schools must use the DOE's numeric equivalents to determine whether students have earned the required course averages of 85 or higher.

**31. Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted exam waivers?**

Yes. The calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents exams the student has.

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

In instances where students have at least three scored Regents exams to be included in the assessments required for the diploma type, **exam waivers would be removed from the calculation.** If the computed average of the Regents exam scores required for the diploma (not including waivers) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Students with fewer than three scored Regents exams applicable to the diploma:

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 waivers were granted equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Refer to the [Grading Policy for 2020-21](#) for the allowable scale of marks awarded during the 2020-21 academic year. Schools must use the DOE's numeric equivalents to determine whether students have earned the required course averages of 90 or higher.

**32. How should NYSED-approved alternative assessments be considered in the calculation for the honors endorsement?**

Students may substitute no more than two NYSED-approved alternative assessments for the required Regents exams. NYSED-approved alternative assessments would be removed from the computed average.

**33. If a student takes one of the four Regents exams administered in June 2021 (Earth Science, Living Environment, ELA, or Algebra I), has a final course average that would benefit them in the Mastery or Honors calculation, and has not received the required scores on the June 2021 Regents exam(s), can the course average be used in such calculation rather than the score on the June 2021 Regents exam?**

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

## EMAIL TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian of [Student Name],

With the cancellation of most Regents exams scheduled to be administered in June 2021 and all of the Regents exams in August 2021, your student can waive one or more Regents exams to graduate. Waiving an exam means that your student does not have to take and pass that exam to graduate because they met the criteria to receive a waiver.

You can decide not to have your student waive their Regents exams if you prefer your child to stay in high school in 2021-22. If you choose to decline a Regents exam waiver, this decision cannot be reversed. Your student will be expected to work toward passing the exam in a future administration. If your student does not pass all the required Regents exams by the school year in which they turn 21 years old, they will not graduate.

If you decide to accept all the Regents exam waivers, your student will graduate as soon as they earn all their course credits.

Please reply to this email and let us know which option you have chosen for your student. If your student does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), we need to hear back from you by [school-based deadline at a minimum, 30 calendar days prior to the date on which a student shall receive a high school diploma] in order to prevent any June and/or August 2021 Regents exam waivers from being applied.

Beginning in June, all Regents waivers will be granted to your student, and they will graduate if they earn all their course credits. If Regents exam waivers have already been applied but you wish to decline one or more waivers, please reach out to us soon as possible and prior to graduation to remedy the situation.

If your student has an IEP and is planning to return to school in the fall for a fifth or sixth year, they cannot graduate unless you reply to us with your decision.

- **Accept all waivers:** I accept all Regents waivers for my student. I understand that my student will graduate once they have earned all their course credits. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing, "I accept all waivers."
- **Decline all waivers:** I do not want any Regents exams waived for my student. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing, "I decline all waivers."
  - I understand that my student will not graduate this year if I select this option.
  - I understand that my student will remain eligible to receive a free public education until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old, or until they receive a high school diploma.
  - I understand that in order to receive a diploma in the future, my student will no longer be eligible for June and/or August 2021 Regents waivers and must meet all applicable graduation requirements. This means my student will have to continue preparing for future administrations of these Regents exams.
- **Accept some waivers:** I would like to decline some, but not all, of the Regents waivers for my student. I am available to discuss which exams I would like my student to waive. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing "I accept some waivers."



- **Undecided:** I am not sure. I would like to meet with a school staff member to discuss this decision. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing “I am not sure.”

This is an important decision that impacts your student’s next steps after high school. We are available to discuss these options with you to help you make the best decision for your student. We congratulate your student for reaching this important stage in their high school career.

Sincerely,

[Name and contact information]