

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As of September 2018

Earning a Diploma in NYC

In New York City public schools, students can earn three types of diplomas: a local diploma, a Regents diploma, or an advanced Regents diploma. All of these diplomas are valid high school diplomas and can be used to demonstrate graduation or enroll in programs after high school, like college and the military. To earn a diploma, students must earn specific course credits (see table to the right) and pass specific Regents exams (see table on the reserve side).

Minimum Credit Requirements

All students must earn **44 total credits across specific subject areas** in order to graduate. Subject-area requirements vary by the type of diploma and may also vary if a student earns an endorsement. Ask your school for more information about credit requirements.

Diploma Endorsements

Students may also earn endorsements to their diplomas. Endorsements recognize the successful completion of additional courses and exams in particular subject areas. Ask your school about the requirements for the following endorsements: Arts, Seal of Biliteracy, Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Honors Designation, Mastery in Math, Mastery in Science, and the Service Seal.

Commencement Credentials

Students can earn two types of commencement credentials, which are not diplomas: the CDOS commencement credential and the Skills and Achievement commencement credential. Students who receive commencement credentials may continue to attend school until they earn a high school diploma or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 (whichever occurs first). Ask your school for more information about commencement credentials.

Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential

This credential recognizes students' preparation for entry-level work through mastery of the CDOS learning standards. Students complete a career plan, employability profile, and 216 hours of career preparation experiences, including at least 54 hours of school-supported work-based learning. The CDOS may be awarded as a sole exiting credential, earned as an endorsement to a diploma, or used to fulfill the +1 option.

Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential

This credential recognizes students' skills and achievements in academic, career development, and other foundations needed for post-school living, learning, and working. This credential may only be awarded to students with severe cognitive disabilities who participate in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Subject Area	Minimum Credit Requirements
English Language Arts (ELA)	8
Social Studies	
Global History	4
U.S. History	2
Participation in Government	1
Economics	1
Math	
Including at least 2 credits of advanced math, such as Geometry or Algebra II	6
Science (including labs)	
Life Science	2
Physical Science	2
Life or Physical Science	2
Language Other Than English (LOTE)	2 for local and Regents diplomas 6 for advanced Regents diploma
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	2
Physical Education	
Consistently throughout high school	4
Health	1
Electives	7 for local and Regents diplomas 3 for advanced Regents diploma
Total Credits	44

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Minimum Exam Requirements

All students must pass at least **five Regents exams** or State-approved alternatives to Regents exams in order to graduate. Subject-area requirements vary by diploma type and endorsement (see table on the right). All students can earn a Regents or advanced Regents diploma. Some students, including students with disabilities, can graduate with a local diploma by earning different exam scores. Speak to your school to learn more about Regents exams, State-approved alternatives (including Career and Technical Education (CTE) exams), and these other exam flexibilities for students who meet specific eligibility requirements:

- Appeals to graduate with low scores on Regents exams
- Safety Net flexibilities for students with disabilities
- Exam waivers for transfer students
- Performance-Based Assessment Tasks (PBATs) for students at State-approved schools

Toward College & Career Readiness

Coursework, exam scores, and activities outside the classroom can support students in working towards their goals for after high school.

Coursework

Students can prepare for college-level work by taking higher-level courses in high school. These courses may include:

- 8-credit course sequence in math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- 8-credit course sequence in science, including Living Environment, Chemistry, and Physics
- Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Honors courses
- Courses for college credit, such as College Now or CUNY Early College

Exams

High exam scores can help students avoid taking remedial classes in college. For CUNY, students may meet the college readiness requirement based on certain test scores. See the CUNY Testing FAQs (<http://bit.ly/CUNYReady>) to learn more.

Reading and Writing

- English Regents score of 75+
- SAT I Verbal score of 480+
- SAT Critical Reading score of 480+
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 480+
- ACT English score of 20+

Math

- Common Core-aligned Algebra I or Geometry Regents exam score of 70+ or Algebra II/Trigonometry exam score of 65+
- Any math Regents exam score of 80+ *and* a passing grade in Algebra II/Trigonometry or a higher-level math course
- Math SAT score of 500+ or SAT Math Section (March 2016 and later) score of 530+
- ACT Math score of 21+

Regents Exam	Local diploma (eligible students only)	Regents diploma	Advanced Regents diploma
English Language Arts (ELA)	55+	65+	65+
Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History • Global History & Geography 	55+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II 	55+ on one math exam	65+ on one math exam	65+ on all three math exams
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Environment • Earth Science • Chemistry • Physics 	55+ on one science exam	65+ on one science exam	65+ on Living Environment <i>and</i> one other science exam
Language Other Than English (LOTE)	<i>Not Required</i>	<i>Not Required</i>	65+ on one LOTE exam
+1 option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional Regents exam • State-approved +1 option 	<i>Requirements vary</i>	<i>Requirements vary</i>	<i>Requirements vary</i>
Total Exams	5	5	9

Credit Requirements

Local, Regents, and Advanced Regents Diplomas

Students must meet the exam requirements listed on the reverse side and, in addition, must earn the credits below in order to receive a local, Regents, or advanced Regents diploma. The credit requirements are identical for all diploma types, except for the advanced Regents diploma where indicated below.

Minimum Requirements¹

English Language Arts (ELA)	8
Social Studies <i>Distributed as follows:</i> Global History (4) U.S. History (2) Participation in Government (1) Economics (1)	8
Math Including at least 2 credits of advanced math (e.g. Geometry or Algebra II)	6
Science (including labs) <i>Distributed as follows:</i> Life Science (2) Physical Science (2) Life or Physical Science (2)	6
Language Other Than English (LOTE) ²	2 (6 for advanced Regents) ³
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	2
Physical Education Every year, distributed in specific patterns	4
Health	1
Electives	7 (3 for advanced Regents)
Total	44

Toward College & Career Readiness

The courses and credits to the left are required for students to graduate with a diploma, but additional courses and experiences may be necessary for a student to be truly ready for success in college and careers. The courses and experiences listed below help prepare students for the transition from high school to college or the workplace.

Courses that Support College & Career Readiness

Math: 8 Regents-level credits, including a sequence that consists of at least the following: ✓ Algebra I ✓ Geometry ✓ Algebra II	Advanced Courses Advanced Placement (AP) courses International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
Science: 8 Regents-level credits, including a sequence that consists of at least three of the following courses: ✓ Living Environment ✓ Chemistry ✓ Physics ✓ An AP science course	Courses for college credit such as: ✓ College Now ✓ CUNY Early College

Alternative Exiting Credentials

There are currently two credentials available: the CDOS commencement credential and the Skills and Achievement commencement credential, described further below. Alternative exiting credentials are **not equivalent to a high school diploma**. Students who receive these credentials are eligible to continue attending school until they earn a high school diploma or until the end of the full school year in which they turn 21 (whichever occurs first). These credentials may only be awarded after at least 12 years of education, excluding kindergarten. For more information on these credentials, students should ask their school.

Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential

Recognizes students' preparation for entry-level work through mastery of the CDOS learning standards. Students may receive this credential upon completion of a career plan, employability profile, and 216 hours of career preparation experiences, including at least 54 hours of school-supported work-based learning. This credential may be awarded as the sole exiting credential, as an endorsement to a diploma, or as a +1 option (see the reverse side for more information).

Skills & Achievement Commencement Credential

Recognizes students' skills and achievements in academic, career development, and other foundations needed for post-school living, learning, and working. This credential may only be awarded to students with severe cognitive disabilities who participate in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

¹ The number of credits required for State-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) sequences varies depending on the specific program of study. Students may be required to earn more than 44 total credits in order to graduate with a CTE endorsement. Students in CTE programs should ask their school about these requirements.

² A student whose IEP indicates a disability that adversely affects his or her ability to learn a language may be exempted from the LOTE requirement but must still earn 44 total credits.

³ Students completing an Arts or CTE endorsement with the advanced Regents diploma are required to complete only 2 credits of LOTE. See reverse for more information about these endorsements.

Exam Requirements

Diploma Type	Local (eligible students only) ⁴	Regents	Advanced Regents	Toward College & Career Readiness
<p>Students must meet the credit requirements listed on the reverse side and, in addition, must earn passing scores on the exams below in order to receive a local, Regents, or advanced Regents diploma. The local diploma is only available to students who are Safety Net-eligible or have been granted specific appeals.⁴ The required score and the exams that must be completed vary based on the type of diploma a student is pursuing.</p>				<p>The exams listed to the left are required for students to graduate with a diploma, but earning higher scores on these exams, taking additional exams, and achieving diploma endorsements can support students in successfully transitioning to college or the workplace. Earning any of the scores below on reading, writing, and math will help students to avoid remediation at CUNY.</p>
Regents Exam⁵				Achievements that Support College & Career Readiness
Minimum Requirements				
English Language Arts (ELA)	55+	65+	65+	<p>Reading and Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ English Regents exam score of 75+ ✓ SAT Critical Reading, I Verbal, or Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 480+ ✓ ACT English score of 20+ ✓ Passing score on CUNY Assessment Tests
<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History OR • Global History & Geography 	55+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam	65+ on one social studies exam	<p>Math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Math Regents exam score of 80+ AND a passing grade in Algebra II /Trigonometry or a higher level math course ✓ Common Core-aligned Algebra I or Geometry Regents exam score of 70+ or Algebra II/Trigonometry exam score of 65+ ✓ Math SAT score of 500+ or SAT Math Section (March 2016 and later) score of 530+ ✓ ACT Math score of 21+ ✓ Passing score on CUNY Assessment Tests
<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I, • Geometry, OR • Algebra II 	55+ on one math exam	65+ on one math exam	65+ on all three math exams	<p>Other Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Earn a score of 3+ on any Advanced Placement (AP) exam ✓ Earn a score of 4+ on any International Baccalaureate (IB) exam ✓ Pass a course that earns college credit with a “C” or higher ✓ Earn an Advanced Regents diploma ✓ Earn a CTE diploma endorsement and/or pass an industry-recognized technical assessment for licensure and/or certification ✓ Earn an Arts diploma endorsement
<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Environment, • Earth Science, • Chemistry, OR • Physics 	55+ on one science exam	65+ on one science exam	65+ on Living Environment AND one other science exam	
Language Other Than English (LOTE)	Not Required	Not Required	65+ on one NYC LOTE exam ⁶	
+1 option⁵	55+ on any additional Regents exam or State-approved +1 option	65+ on any additional Regents exam or State-approved +1 option	65+ on any additional Regents exam or State-approved +1 option	
				Diploma Endorsements
				<p>Students may earn diploma endorsements recognizing the successful completion of additional courses and exams. Students should ask their school if they are eligible for any of the following endorsements: Arts endorsement, Seal of Biliteracy, the CDOS endorsement, CTE endorsement, Honors Designation, Mastery in Math, Mastery in Science, and the Service Seal.</p>
<p>⁴ Some students, including students with disabilities, may have additional options for fulfilling graduation requirements. These students may be eligible for the local diploma, which allows students to graduate with lower exam scores. Students and families should discuss their options with their schools.</p> <p>⁵ Other assessments and learning experiences approved by the New York State Education Department may fulfill the +1 option or replace a Regents exam. Students should ask their schools about the availability of these options, including the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) +1 option. Students using the CDOS +1 option must complete a career plan, employability profile, and 216 hours of career preparation experiences, which must include at least 54 hours of school-supported work-based learning.</p> <p>⁶ A student completing an Arts or CTE endorsement with the advanced Regents diploma is not required to take the LOTE exam. Likewise, a student with a disability whose IEP indicates that disability negatively affects the student’s ability to learn a language is not required to take the LOTE exam in order to receive an advanced Regents diploma.</p>				

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