

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As of September 2019

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 counselor 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 counselor 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	
Additional 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 for exams 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 counselor to learn more about Regents exams, State-approved alternatives, 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

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