

SUBJECT: CREDENTIAL OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are provided appropriate opportunities to earn a high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of Commissioner's Regulations Section 100.5. However, when necessary, the District may award high school individualized education program (IEP) diplomas to students with disabilities.

High School Diplomas

Students pursuing either a Regents or a local high school diploma must acquire a certain number of units of credit in specified courses and also meet subject sequence requirements. It is critical that students with disabilities be provided access to the required courses and testing programs needed for graduation with these awards.

Regents Diploma Requirements

To earn a high school Regents diploma, all students need to take and pass five (5) specific Regents examinations with a score of 65 or higher and earn twenty-two (22) units of credit. The required Regents Examinations are English, Mathematics, Science, Global History and Geography, and U.S. History and Government.

High School Individualized Program (IEP) Diplomas

Each individualized education program (IEP) diploma awarded shall be accompanied by a written statement of assurance that the student named as its recipient shall continue to be eligible to attend school until the student has earned a high school diploma or until the end of the school year of such student's twenty-first (21st) birthday, whichever is earlier.

The Superintendent shall report to the State Education Department, within fifteen (15) days after the June graduation, the total number and the names of the students awarded IEP diplomas that school year.

Local Diploma Safety Net Options for Students with DisabilitiesStudents with Disabilities Entering Grade 9 Prior to September 2011

Student with disabilities who first enter grade 9 prior to September 2011 may earn credit toward a Local Diploma by:

- a) Achieving a score of 55-64 on any or all Regents Examinations required for graduation (English, Mathematics, Science, Global History and Geography, and/or U.S. History and Government); or

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- b) Passing the corresponding Regents Competency Test (RCT) of a failed required Regents Examination.

The school may administer the RCT before or after the Regents Examination, but in all cases the student MUST take the required Regents Examination in order to earn the Local Diploma.

The RCT Examinations shall remain available until the student graduates or reaches the age of twenty-one (21). This provision of law applies only to students with disabilities who are entitled to attend school pursuant to Education Law Section 3202 or 4402(5).

Students with Disabilities Entering Grade 9 After September 2011

The option to take the Regents Competency Test (RCT) will not be available for any students entering grade 9 beginning in September 2011 and thereafter. The student's grade level is based on the grade in which the student was enrolled during the school year (September to June) prior to September 2011. While the RCT safety net ends with the class of students that entered grade 9 during the 2010-2011 school year, the local diploma option remains available to all students with disabilities provided they earn a score of 55-64 on one (1) or more required Regents examinations.

Information regarding graduation requirements, including the local diploma option and the appeals process, may be found at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html>

Education Law Sections 3202 and 4402(5)
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Sections 100.5(a-f) and 100.9

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7220 -- [Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs](#)

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High School Individualized Program (IEP) Diplomas

Each individualized education program (IEP) diploma awarded shall be accompanied by a written statement of assurance that the student named as its recipient shall continue to be eligible to attend school until the student has earned a high school diploma or until the end of the school year of such student's twenty-first birthday, whichever is earlier.

The Superintendent shall report to the State Education Department, within fifteen (15) days after the June graduation, the total number and the names of the students awarded IEP diplomas that school year.

Regents Competency Test (RCT) Safety Net and 55-64 Passing Score Option for Students with Disabilities

In October 2003, the Board of Regents approved an extension of the Regents Competency Test (RCT) "safety net" for students with disabilities who pursue a Regents or local high school diploma.

The following students qualify for the RCT safety net and the 55-64 passing score:

- a) Students with disabilities identified through a Committee on Special Education (CSE). Specific language regarding the availability of the safety net does not have to be indicated on the student's IEP.
- b) Students with disabilities identified through the Section 504 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) if recommended and documented by the MDT on the student's Accommodation Plan.
- c) Students with disabilities declassified while in grades 8 through 12 if recommended and documented by the CSE on the student's IEP.

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Instruction

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In order to earn a high school Regents diploma, all students need to take and pass five (5) specific Regents examinations with a score of 65 or higher. Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) has developed a chart on the "Diploma Requirements Based on June 2005 Board of Regents Action to Phase in the 65 Graduation Standard on Required Regents Exams" which is available at: <http://vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/chart-diploma.htm>

The safety net allows students with disabilities who fail a required Regents exam to instead meet the requirements for a local diploma by passing the RCT in that subject or the Department approved alternative. The safety net is available to all eligible students with disabilities entering grade 9 through the 2009-10 school year. The school may administer the RCT before or after the Regents examination, but in all cases the student must take the required Regents examination in order to earn the local diploma. The RCT exams will be available until the student graduates or reaches the age of twenty-one (21).

55-64 Passing Score

For students with disabilities who first enter grade 9 in September 2005 and thereafter, a score by the student of 55-64 may also be met by achieving a passing score on any Regents examination (English, Mathematics, Science, Global History and U.S. History) required for graduation; and, in such event, the District may issue a local diploma to such student. The 55-64 passing score must be made available to students with disabilities and is no longer a District option. This provision shall apply only to students with disabilities who are entitled to attend school pursuant to Education Law Sections 3202 or 4402(5).

Education Law Sections 3202 and 4402(5)
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Sections 100.5(a-f) and 100.9