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Graduation Requirements

In New York State, there are three types of diplomas: a local diploma, a Regents diploma, and an Advanced Regents diploma. All students can earn a Regents or Advanced Regents diploma; however only students who meet specific criteria are eligible to graduate with a local diploma, which allows students to graduate with lower exam scores. The type of diploma your child earns depends on his or her course credits and scores on specific Regents exams, as shown in the table below. An Advanced Regents diploma lets students demonstrate additional skills in math, science, and languages other than English. **If you think your child is not earning the credits she or he needs to graduate, please speak to your school's guidance counselor immediately.** Keep in mind that a student may always exceed these requirements; these represent the minimum.

Regents Diploma		Advanced Regents Diploma	
Examination Requirements			
Your child must achieve a score of 65 or higher on these five Regents exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts (ELA) • Any mathematics exam (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II/Trigonometry) • Any social studies exam (Global History and Geography or U.S. History and Government) • Any science exam (Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics) • Any additional Regents exam or assessment approved by the State for this purpose 		Your child must achieve a score of 65 or higher on these nine exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts (ELA) • Three mathematics exams (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II/Trigonometry) • Any social studies exam (Global History and Geography or U.S. History and Government) • Two science exams (Living Environment and one of these: Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics) • Any additional Regents exam or assessment approved by the State for this purpose • Any NYC Languages Other Than English (LOTE) exam 	
Minimum Credit Requirements			
8	Core English	8	
8	Social Studies: Global History (4), U.S. History (2), Participation in Government (1), Economics (1)	8	
6	Mathematics: Including at least two credits of advanced math (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II)	6	
6	Science: Life Science (2), Physical Science (2), Life Science or Physical Science (2)	6	
2	Languages Other than English (LOTE)*	6	
4	Physical Education (every year, distributed in specific ways)	4	
1	Health	1	
2	Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	2	
7	Electives	3	
44	TOTAL CREDITS	44	

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*A student seeking an Advanced Regents diploma with an arts or CTE endorsement is only required to complete 2 credits of LOTE. Also, a student whose IEP specifies that the disability directly impacts his or her ability to learn a language may substitute other courses for the LOTE requirement and still earn an Advanced Regents diploma.

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

In addition to the Regents or Advanced Regents diploma, students with IEPs have other graduation options available:

- The local diploma, which allows students who meet specific criteria to graduate with lower exam scores; and
- Two non-diploma credentials that allow students with disabilities to demonstrate career-readiness skills. Note that these credentials are **not equivalent** to a high school diploma:
 - The Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement (CDOS) credential allows students to demonstrate mastery of the academic and personal behaviors required in the workplace. It can serve in addition to a high school diploma or as a standalone credential.
 - Students who are alternately assessed can earn the Skills and Achievement credential which, although not equivalent to a diploma, supports the attainment of career-readiness skills.

[Read more about graduation requirements for students with disabilities.](#)

Detailed Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are determined at the State level and vary according to the year a student first entered 9th grade, as well as by other demographic factors. Please click on the following links for complete, historical information on graduation requirements:

Detailed graduation requirements and historical information for [general education students](#)

| | [中文](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Հայերեն](#) | [Русский](#) | [Español](#) |

Detailed graduation requirements and historical information for [students with disabilities](#)

| | [中文](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Հայերեն](#) | [Русский](#) | [Español](#) |

Please note that detailed graduation requirements for **career and technical education programs** are now incorporated into the above information. [See here for historical purposes:](#)

| | [中文](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Հայերեն](#) | [Русский](#) | [Español](#) |

Diploma Worksheet

Students and guidance counselors can use this [diploma requirements worksheet](#) in planning sessions. If you feel your child is not on track to graduate, please schedule a meeting with your child's guidance counselor. If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), you can discuss alternatives with the student's guidance counselor and IEP team.

More Information

[College Planning Handbook](#)

[Planning for Success: Supporting Transitions through High School to College and Career](#)

[Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Website](#)

[The Office of Postsecondary Readiness](#)