

SECTION 18C

C. NYC DOE SCHOOLS & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

NYC DOE SCHOOLS

There are over 400 NYC DOE high schools in New York City and not all are created equal! Coaches working with students in 8th and 9th grade can assist with the high school selection process (see [Fair Futures Program Manual Section 27, Coaching Middle School Students](#)). Coaches should aim to help students transfer into best-fit high schools that ideally have a graduation rate of 90% or above.

A few types of NYC DOE high schools that can be particularly supportive for justice-involved youth include:

- **Restart Academy for overage middle school students.** See more information [here](#).
- **Alternative high schools, and transfer schools in particular**, which students can transfer into if they are not promoted after 9th grade. These schools have smaller, more supportive environments, and many have paid internships, which can help with engagement. Some have a trimester schedule where students can graduate in a condensed timeframe. See [Fair Futures Program Manual Section 18E](#).
- **School of Cooperative Technical Education (Co-Op Tech)**, which combines vocational training and paid internships in multiple sectors while the young person attends high school or a GED program. *They also have an onsite GED program.*
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools** – for students w/specific areas of interest. It combines traditional coursework with professional training in a specific area where they can earn Certifications in trades, STEM, health care, culinary, art, design, etc. These certifications can replace a Regents exam! *See below for more information.*
- **Consortium/PBAT schools.** Did you know that students can get a Regents diploma and only have to pass the ELA exam and do portfolio work if they go to a consortium school that has “Performance Based Assessments” (PBATs)? These schools can be good for students who prefer a non-traditional environment and/or struggle with standardized tests. *See more below.*

DOE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The [Fair Futures Core Training](#) and the Advocates For Children Graduation Requirements Training will cover this topic extensively. Please find an overview below.

A high school diploma gives students access to college, the military, and trade/vocational training programs. To earn a New York State high school diploma in NYC, students need **44 credits and to meet the Regents exam requirements according to the type of diploma.**

There are four types of high school diplomas:

Advanced Regents diploma

This requires students to pass 8 Regents exams with a score of 90 or above; see requirements [here](#).

Regents diploma

This requires students to pass 4 Regents exams with a score of 65 or higher (ELA, one Math, one History, and one Science), plus 1 additional state exam (this can include an Advanced Placement (AP) score, a State- approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) exam, another Regents exam, or the CDOS Commencement Credential). If a student attends a consortium school that has Performance Based Assessments (PBATs), they only have to pass the ELA exam! This can be a great option for students. See detailed requirements [here](#).

- Students who earn a score of 60-64 can appeal it! Coaches should help them. See more [here](#).

Local diploma

Students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) can pass the 4 + 1 Regents exam requirement with a 55 instead of a 65. There are also some other safety net options you should be aware of to help students with an IEP graduate; see [here](#). *Also don't forget about schools that have PBATs!*

- Students who earn a score of 52-54 can appeal it! Coaches should help them. See more [here](#).
- For English Language Learners, see additional safety nets [here](#).

High School Equivalency (HSE)

Students can earn this by passing a free test called the GED.

- **The GED has four sections: Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA).** Students must pass all four sections to receive a HSE Diploma, but they don't have to pass at the same time. *If they passed a Regents exam in that area, they are exempt!*
- It is important to keep in mind that if the student is 17 or 18, they must enroll in an approved HSE course to take the GED, and 17-year-olds need parent or guardian permission. *Students under age 17 cannot take the GED in NYC.*

TIP! It is important to note that the GED is often considered as difficult as the Regents exams (some find it more difficult), and with the GED there are no “safety net” options where students can appeal a low score!

The GED is the only option to earn a diploma if a student is over age 21, as they can no longer attend NYC DOE schools.

If a student is under age 21, a transfer high school may be a better option as students can appeal scores and receive other supports (see [Fair Futures Program Manual Section 18E](#) for more info on transfer schools).

However, there may be other reasons why young people want to attend an HSE program. For these young people, Coaches should help young people find quality, best-fit options. Some of the highest quality HSE programs for young people ages 18-21 are called [P2G \(Pathways to Graduation\) programs](#), as they have special education services for students with IEPs, metrocards, and other supports.

For young people over age 21 and/or those who are interested in vocational programming, a great option can be the Advance & Earn programs, where young people can enroll in an HSE program while also taking vocational training and have a paid internship.

IN GENERAL, COACHES SHOULD HELP STUDENTS CONNECT TO AN HSE PROGRAM THAT OFFERS ONSITE PROGRAMMING IN LINE WITH THEIR INTERESTS. USE [ONE DEGREE](#) TO FIND A BEST-FIT HSE PROGRAM!

Students with IEPs who are unable to earn a Regents or Local diploma, often due to having significant disabilities, may leave school with one of two credentials:

- #1. The Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential
- #2. The Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC)

These credentials replaced the “IEP Diploma,” which is no longer offered. On their own, the CDOS and SACC credentials are NOT high school diplomas and CANNOT be used to apply to college, the military, or trade schools. However, they are important credentials that can help students enter entry-level employment. See pages 3 and 4 of the Advocates for Children resource “[High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities](#)”.

[Click here to return to Section 18 Table of Contents.](#)