New York School Promotion and Graduation Requirements

Parents and students should begin thinking about high school graduation requirements well before a student's fourth year of high school. If you have any questions about whether a student will be ready for graduation, ask to meet with the student's guidance counselor.

PROMOTION CRITERIA FOR EACH GRADE

Grade 9: Earn a minimum of 5 ½ credits
Grade 10: Have a minimum of 11 credits
Grade 11: Have a minimum of 16 ½ credits

For more information about promotion policies, speak with your district

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION: 22 credits required

- 4 in English
- 3 in Math
- 4 in Social Studies
  2 in Global History,
  1 in U.S. History,
  1½ in Economics,
  ½ in Government
- 3 in Science
  1 in Life Science
  1 in Physical Sciences,
  1 additional in Life Science or Physical Science
- 3 in Math
- 1 in Second Language
- 1 in Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater
- 2 in Physical Education (½ each semester)
- ½ in Health
- 3½ in Elective Areas

EXAM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION: 5 exams required

Four required Regents exams:
English Language Arts, one Math, one History (U.S. History OR Global History), and one Science
- Passing score of 65 required.
- However, if a student scores a 60, 61, 62, 63, or 64 on one or two exams, they may be able to appeal the exam(s) and still graduate. Please see AFC’s fact sheet Appeal Options for Regents Exams
- Regents exams are offered in January, June, and August.

AND one more State-approved exam chosen by the student, including:
- Additional Regents exams
- SAT II exams
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- Language Other Than English (LOTE) exam
- State-approved CTE exams
- Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential
Still have more questions? Call the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline:
Monday through Thursday • 10 am to 4 pm • 1-866-427-6033 (toll free)
www.advocatesforchildren.org

This tip sheet does not constitute legal advice. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.

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