



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

## 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,  
1 ½ 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

## NOTE:

If you are planned to take or re-take a Regents exam, work toward CDOS hours, or take a Language Other Than English (LOTE) exam in **June and/or August 2020**, you may be eligible to graduate without taking the exam. To learn more about this COVID-19 exemption click [here](#).

## NOTE:

*Special scoring and appeals options are available for students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs).*

For more information, please review the following resources:

[NYSED Guidance on Determining English Language Learner/Multilingual Learner \(ELL/MLL\) Status of and Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

AFC's fact sheets:

[High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities](#)

[High School Promotion and Graduation Requirements for ELLs](#)

***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](http://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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