



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

Regents Exam Rights

Most students need 4 + 1 exams to graduate.

In general, students need to pass 5 Regents exams with scores of 65 or higher to earn a high school diploma: the English Language Arts exam and one math, one science, and one history exam. Your fifth exam, also called a “+ 1,” can be:

- ☐ Any other Regents exam;
- ☐ An approved alternative like a language test, an SAT II, or a Career and Technical Education assessment;
- ☐ A Career Development and Occupational Skills Credential (CDOS).

For more about graduation requirements, see AFC's *Graduation Requirements* fact sheet (link below).

There are exceptions and appeals.

All students can appeal up to two Regents exam scores. There are more appeals for students with disabilities and English Language Learners. For details, check out AFC's *Appeal Options for Regents Exams* (link below).

If you have a disability, an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or a 504 plan, you may be able to graduate with fewer exams or lower scores. For details, check out AFC's *Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities* (link below).

If you've taken the class, you can take the exam.

All students who have enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam have the right to take the test. To take science exams, you must also complete lab requirements. If you aren't signed up for a Regents exam and want to be, talk to your guidance counselor.

You cannot be excluded from Regents exams because of attendance, disciplinary reasons, or your grade in the class.

If you are suspended, you can return to your school on Regents exam days to take your tests.

You have the right to take the exam as many times as you need.

Regents exams are in June, August, and January. Schedules are online [here](#). If you want to try for a higher score, ask your guidance counselor to schedule you for the test the next time it is administered.

NOTE:

You have these rights whether you attend a regular Department of Education high school, an alternative program like a transfer school or YABC, or a charter school.

If you think your rights are being violated, talk to your principal or guidance counselor or call 311.

Still need help?
Call our Education Helpline

Monday through Thursday
10 am to 4 pm
1-866-427-6033 (toll free)

English Language Learners can take some exams in languages other than English.

Some science, math, and history exams are available in Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Korean. For a list, visit www.nysedregents.org/translatedexams.html.

Students with disabilities have the right to testing accommodations.

Testing accommodations can help you show what you know on exams. Accommodations include things like extra time, breaks, a small group, a scribe, or using technology to write out your answers. You have the right to get all the testing accommodations listed on your IEP or 504 plan. If you need a testing accommodation that isn't on your IEP or 504 plan, talk to your guidance counselor or principal. For more information, check out AFC's guides to Special Education or Section 504 (links below).

You can keep re-taking exams even after you turn 21.

If you dropped out before you passed all your Regents exams, you can take the exam again. Contact your last high school before the test day to tell them which exam you want to take.

You can use Regents exam scores to get your High School Equivalency Diploma.

If you left school without a diploma, you can apply passing Regents scores toward your High School Equivalency Diploma. To get your High School Equivalency Diploma, you will need to take a free test called the GED. The GED has 4 required subtests. You can substitute passing Regents scores for some of these subtests. Check out www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/regents-hse-exam-pathway-frequently-asked-questions for more information.

» HELPFUL LINKS «

- AFC's High School Graduation Requirements: www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/highschool_promotion_graduation_requirements.pdf
- AFC's Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities: www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/graduation_options_for_students_with_disabilities.pdf
- AFC's Appeal Options for Regents Exams: www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/regents_exam_appeal_options.pdf
- AFC's Guide to Special Education: www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/special_ed_guide.pdf
- AFC's Guide to Section 504: http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/section_504_guide.pdf
- New York City Department of Education Academic Policy Guide: <https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/AcPolicy-HighSchoolAcademicPolicyGuide>
- New York State Education Department Regents Exam Manual: <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/state-assessment/high-school-administrators-manual-2019.pdf>

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

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