



City Honors School
2021 NYS Regents Examinations
Frequently Asked Questions
Document
for Parents and Students



This document has been developed to help parents and students understand guidance from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and Buffalo Public Schools regarding the 2021 June and August Regents exams. This document was produced using questions from CHS families as well as a more detailed NYSED FAQ. Please note that NYSED guidance supersedes any information provided in this locally developed summary document. To access the more detailed NYSED FAQ, [please visit this link](#).

Still have questions after reading this document? Please contact BPS Chief Accountability/Information Officer, Ebony Bullock at ebullock@buffaloschools.org

1. Are the June 2021 Regents Examinations cancelled?

At this time, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) plans to administer only the following Regents Examinations:

- Algebra I
- Earth Science (written test only)
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Living Environment

2. What if my child was enrolled in a Regents course that does not have an exam being offered this year?

Your child will be assigned an ‘E’ on their transcript which stands for ‘Exemption.’

3. Are the August 2021 Regents Examinations cancelled?

Yes. The NYSED will not be administering any Regents Examinations in August 2021.

4. Are students that are enrolled in one of the four courses culminating in an administered Regents Examination (Algebra I, Earth Science, ELA, Living Environment) required to take the associated Regents Examination? These examinations will be administered only in instances where schools and districts can ensure the health and safety of students and teachers. Students receiving 100% remote instruction will not be made to come to school for the sole purpose of taking a Regents Examination. If a family decides to not have their child participate, the student will receive an “E” for the associated exam as long as the student has passed the course.

5. If our child receives an E for the exam, will they be required to take the exam next year?

No.

6. If our child receives an E for the exam this year, will they have the option to take the exam next year?

Yes. Once a child is issued a diploma however, a student's right to a continued public school education ends.

7. If my child does not pass their Regents course for the year, but passes the Regents exam, will they need to retake the course?

Yes, they will be reenrolled in the course to begin next school year. If they receive a passing grade for the first two quarters, they will receive a credit and can be withdrawn from the course for the second semester.

8. Is it better for purposes of college admissions and scholarships to take the Regents exam and receive a lower score like a 75 or to not take it and receive an E? We are in uncharted waters and cannot advise how colleges will look upon exemptions. What we can tell you is that if your child is not satisfied with their score, they can retake the exam next year or request that the exam score be changed to an E. Regardless of the score they receive on the exam, they also have the opportunity to represent their participation in the exam to colleges as an indication of their resilience.

9. How will students who are granted exemptions meet assessment requirements for Advanced Regents Diplomas?

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). For example, a student who received an exemption from the Regents Examination in English Language Arts does not need to meet the ELA assessment requirement for a local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma. Exemptions remain with students until they graduate or exit high school.

10. Will exemptions be available for Regents exams next school year?

While we cannot predict future NYSED decisions, New York State has administered Regents exams since 1865. These exams are a recognized national standard and open doors for New York State students when it comes to college admissions and merit-based scholarships.

11. In order for my child to be exempted from a Regents Examination, does my child need to have passed the course?

Yes. Please note, students in any grade taking a Regents exam will not receive credit for the course unless they pass the course. Keep in mind, students who do not pass a Regents course will be reenrolled for that course for the upcoming school year.

12. Is a student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021, and intended to retake the Regents in June 2021 or August 2021 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for the Regents Examination exemption? No. Any student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to June 2021 is not eligible for the exam exemption.

13. Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be exempted from the science assessment diploma requirement?

No. In December 2020, the NYSED issued flexibility in the 1,200 Minute Science Laboratory Requirement. Students are not required to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences for either admission into a Regents Examination in science or exemption from the assessment requirement.

14. Does my child need to take the Checkpoint A or B Exam in their World Language this year?

Checkpoint exams will not be offered in BPS this school year. All students will be automatically exempted from these exams but must pass their respective course to receive credit for the course. Students will still need to earn at least three (3) diploma credits in the LOTE/World Languages in order to qualify for an Advanced Regents diploma.

15. Can students earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if they are exempt from a mathematics or science Regents Examination needed for such endorsement?

Yes. Students may earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if the student meets the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and:

- passes 3 math and/or 3 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher; or
- passes 2 math and/or 2 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher and has been granted an exemption on a third math and/or science Regents Examination; or
- passes 1 math and/or 1 science Regents Examination with an 85 or higher and has earned a final course grade of 85 or higher in 2 additional math and/or science courses culminating in a Regents Examination for which they were granted an exemption.

16. Can students earn the honors endorsement on their Regents diploma if they are granted examination exemptions?

Yes. The calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents Examinations the student has. Students with a minimum of three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma. In instances where students have at least three scored Regents Examinations to be included in the assessments required for the diploma type, exemptions due to COVID-19 would be removed from the calculation. If the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

17. If a student takes one of the four Regents Examinations administered in June 2021 (Earth Science, Living Environment, ELA, or Algebra I) and scores poorly, but has a final course average that would benefit them in the Mastery or Honors calculation, can the course average be used in such calculation rather than the score on the June 2021 Regents Examination?

Yes. In cases where a student does take one of the 4 Regents Examinations administered in June 2021, schools may use either the final course average or the score on the Regents Examination, whichever is most beneficial to the student in the calculation for Mastery or Honors. Substitutions of course averages for Regents examinations taken prior to June 2021 are not permitted.

18. If a student takes a Regents Examination in June 2021 (Algebra I, Earth Science (written test only), English Language Arts, and/or Living Environment), must the school/district record the student's score on the student's transcript?

Schools and districts must record the score of any Regents Examination on a student's permanent record. The choice to record a score or an "E" for exempt on a student's transcript should be made in consultation with the student, and the student's choice for official transcript purposes should be respected whenever possible.

19. Can a student be exempt from the unfinished requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential?

Students who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2020-21 school year and have not met all of the requirements due to COVID-19 may be granted the CDOS Commencement Credential, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standard

20. Can a student be exempted from the CDOS credential requirements if students are continuing their high school education beyond the 2020-21 school year?

Students may be exempted from requirements that were missed due to COVID-19; however, students must fulfill any requirements scheduled or planned for subsequent school years.

21. For students with disabilities that meet the requirements to earn a Local Diploma through the Superintendent Determination Option and have been working toward earning a CDOS Credential, may a district waive the required 216 hours of CTE coursework (at least 54 hours of which must be work-based learning)?

Yes. Students with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to exit from high school in the 2020-21 school year may be awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential without having met all of the requirements, for purposes of eligibility for the superintendent determination option, provided that the school principal, in consultation with relevant faculty, has determined that the student has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills in the commencement level CDOS learning standards.