



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn



**EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY
FOR 21-YEAR-OLDS
IN COVID-19**

AUGUST 4, 2020



What is Advocates for Children (AFC)?

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AFC is an independent agency that protects the rights of all NYC students

Our Services:

- Helpline: **1-866-427-6033** (Mon-Thurs, 10am – 4pm)
- Guides and resources: www.advocatesforchildren.org
- Workshops and trainings
- Free legal services to low-income families



Agenda

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1. What is Extended Eligibility?

2. State Policy Updates

3. City Policy Updates

4. Advocacy Tips & Tools



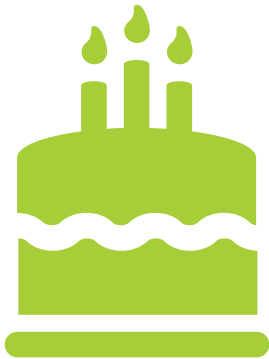
New Yorkers have the right to stay in school until

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You earn a diploma

OR



The June after your 21st
birthday

(whichever comes first)



Key Terms

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Aging out: Students generally lose the right to attend high school after the end of the school year in which they turn 21.

Statewide, 3,700 students turned 21 during the 2019-2020 school year; those who did not earn a diploma “aged out.”

Extended eligibility: In certain circumstances, schools offer students the opportunity to stay in school after the end of the school year in which they turn 21.



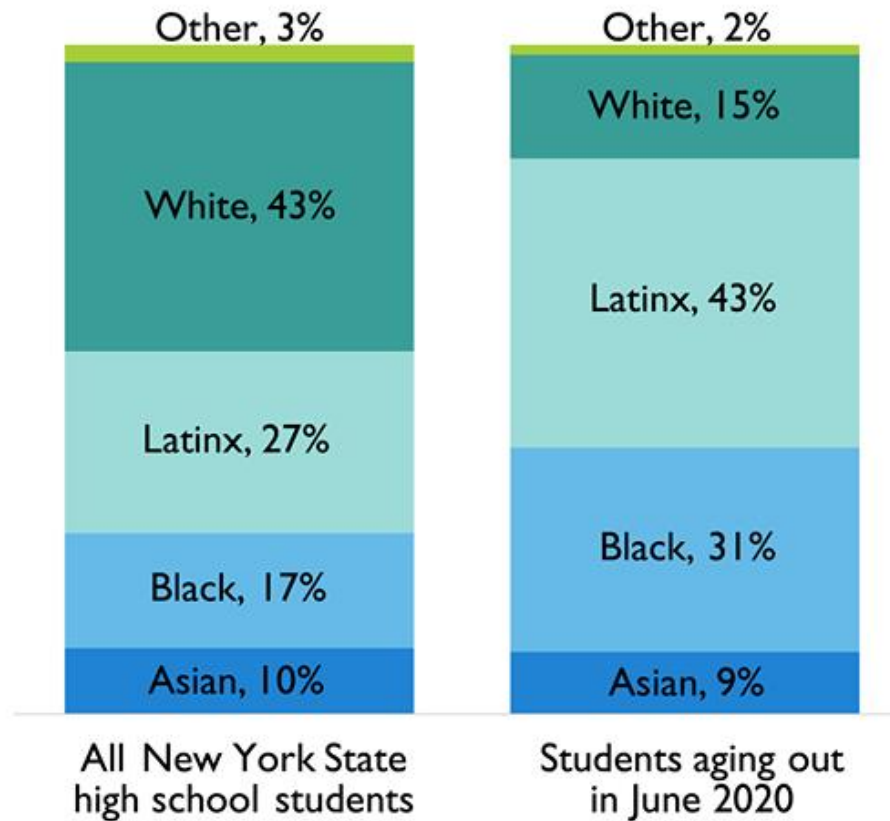
Students Aging Out

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74% of students aging out in June 2020 are Black or Latinx, though Black and Latinx students comprise only **44%** of the total high school population.



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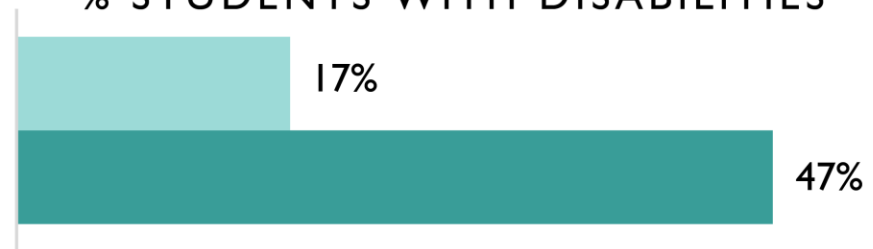
Students Aging Out

10

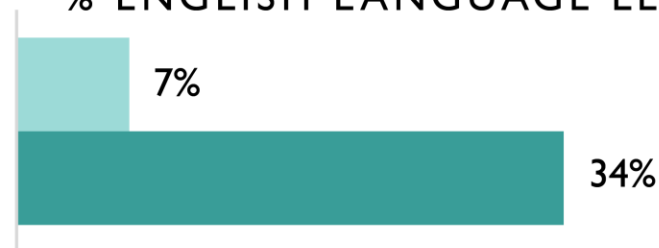
NEARLY HALF
of New York State
students aging out
have disabilities



ONE IN THREE
is learning English
as a new language

% STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



% ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



-  All New York State high school students
-  Students aging out in June 2020



ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
OF NEW YORK



June 18, 2020

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

From: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

Subject: Providing Over-Age Students the Opportunity to Return to School in the 2020-21 School Year Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

As you know, the Board of Regents and the State Education Department have made a number of temporary regulatory changes to minimize the harm to New York's students as a result of the closing of schools and the abrupt move to remote instruction this year. Specifically, we cancelled the June 2020 administration of Regents exams and modified the requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements.

While COVID-19 has impacted all of us, it has been particularly harmful to vulnerable populations, including especially English language learners, economically disadvantaged and homeless students, and students with disabilities. The problem is greatly compounded for those students who will "age out" of the P-12 education system because they have turned 21 years old by the start of school in September 2020.

Many plans for the final quarter of school were placed on hold this year, leaving some students without the high levels of support and planning they needed to effectively transition from high school to their postsecondary plans. Through no fault of their own, these students now risk losing the opportunity to earn a high school diploma when they age out of the system at the end of the 2019-20 school year. That is an unfair and unjust result for our students who can least afford to lose this life-changing opportunity to earn a diploma, credential, or endorsement.

To ensure that 21-year-old students have the chance to earn their high school diploma and fully prepare for the transition to their previously planned postsecondary experiences, the Board of Regents and the Education Department are strongly encouraging schools and school districts to allow those students who will age out of school the opportunity – for this year only – to return for summer school and, if necessary, attend school in the 2020-2021 year, in order to complete their education and earn a diploma.

We must do everything possible to support our most vulnerable students and their families through these incredibly challenging times. It would be a cruel injustice to pull the rug out from under these young adults who have worked so hard for so long. Giving them the opportunity to complete their schooling, earn a diploma, and transition to the next step in their lives will benefit them, their families, and the communities in which they live and work – and we urge you to offer them that opportunity.

June 18, 2020: New York State Education Department Issues Memo

“[S]trongly encouraging schools and school districts to allow those students who will age out of school the opportunity – for this year only – to return for summer school and, if necessary, attend school in the 2020-2021 year, in order to complete their education and earn a diploma”





Ongoing State Advocacy

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Urge districts around NYS to notify families immediately that 21-year-olds may remain in high school

Advocate for resources to support schools serving 21-year-olds

Coalition
for
Multiple
Pathways
to a
Diploma





Next Steps for NYS Families

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Reach out to your school to share the NYSED memo and request more time

Parents of students with disabilities can request an Impartial Hearing for Extended Eligibility





In NYC: Services for 21-Year-Olds

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Close to
Graduation

IEP
recommends
NYSAA

Transition
Consultation



[Click here to see the DOE policy.](#)



Close to Graduation: Who?

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Any student

Reasonably expected to complete diploma requirements by June 2021

Can stay in school through 2020-21



[Click here for info about Transfer High Schools](#)



Close to Graduation: How?

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Step 1: Contact your school

Step 2: Escalate to:

- specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov
- [Your Superintendent](#) 🔑

Step 3: Contact AFC

- AgingOut@advocatesforchildren.org
- Helpline: 866-427-6033





IEP Recommends NYSAA

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Students can stay in school through 2020-21 if:

Working towards SACC

Missed instruction due to COVID-19

Showing signs of regression

AND not met IEP goals





IEP Recommends NYSAA

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Staying in school includes:

Transportation

Meals

Instruction

Related
Services

Transition
Supports



IEP Recommends NYSAA: How?

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Transition Consultation

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Any student with a disability

Whether or not they've finished HS

“Transition Support Consultancy Services” through 2020-21



Transition Consultation

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Can include ...

I:I support (in person or remote)

Help applying to college or vocational programs

ACCESS-VR intake & documents

OPWDD eligibility

Can review documents, make calls with you, reach out on your behalf

Consultation services until adult services are in place



Transition Consultation

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Step 1: Contact

- Transition & College Access Centers ([TCACs](#)) 
- D75transition@schools.nyc.gov

Step 2: Escalate to

- specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov

Step 3: Contact AFC

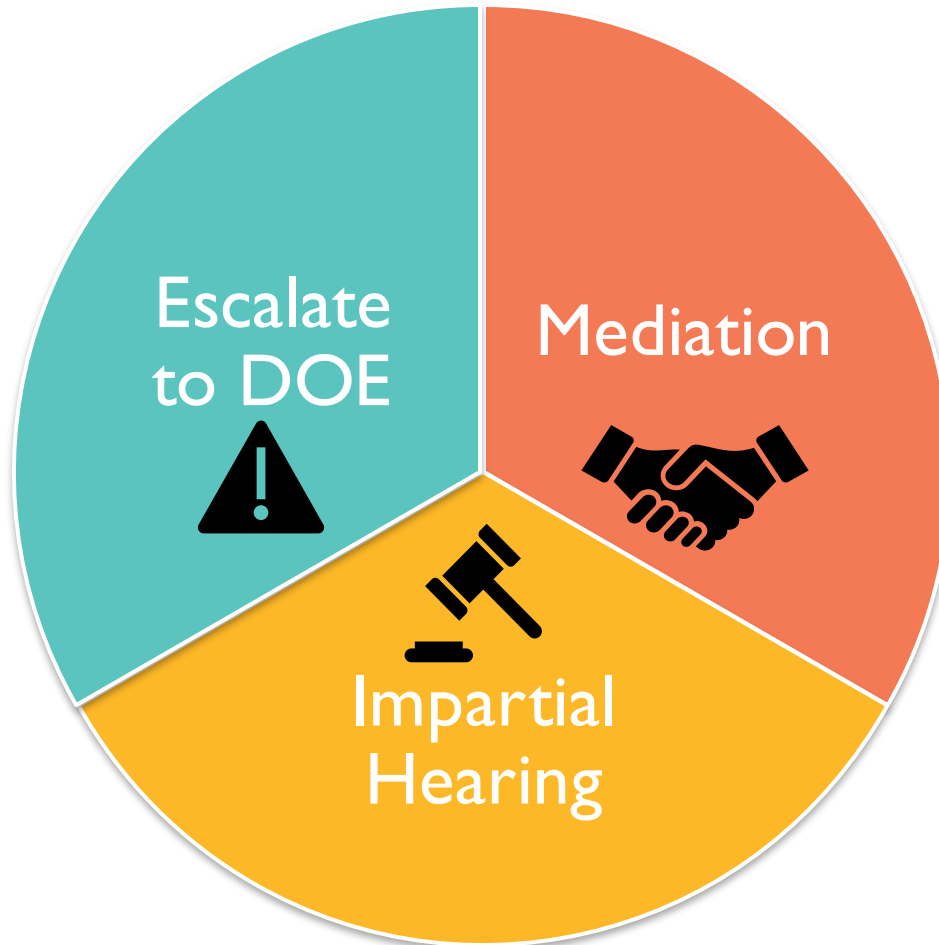
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What if I disagree with the school?

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Requesting an Impartial Hearing

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All parents of students with disabilities have the right to request an impartial hearing to get more time in high school

Some parents will need to request an impartial hearing to get more time in high school

- Unilateral placement at private school
- DOE escalation unsuccessful





To Recap ...

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Reach out to your school for more time

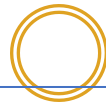
Contact Transition and College Access Centers (TCACs) for transition consultations.

Email specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov

Parents of students with disabilities can Request an Impartial Hearing for Extended Eligibility 



NYS Graduation Requirements, COVID-19 Changes



[AFC Summary of COVID-19 Graduation Changes](#)

[NYSED COVID-19 Graduation Guidance:](#)

[NYSED COVID-19 Graduation FAQ](#)

Give us Your Feedback!



**Please complete this
4-question survey!**

Give us Your Feedback!



Please respond in the chat:

1.

- What is one thing you learned from this training?

2.

- What was your favorite part of the training?

3.

- What was your least favorite part of the training?



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