High School Promotion & Graduation in NYC

Families should begin thinking about high school graduation requirements well before a student’s fourth year of high school. If you have questions about whether you will be ready for graduation, talk to your guidance counselor.

PROMOTION FOR EACH GRADE

Grade 9: Earn a minimum of 8 credits
Grade 10: Have a minimum of 20 credits, including 4 in English/ESL and 4 in Social Studies
Grade 11: Have a minimum of 30 credits

For more information about promotion, see Chancellor’s Regulation A-501.

CREDITS FOR GRADUATION: 44 credits required

• 8 in English
• 8 in Social Studies (4 in Global History, 2 in American History, 1 in Economics, 1 in Government)
• 6 in Science (2 in Life Science, 2 in Physical Sciences, 2 additional in Life Science or Physical Science)
• 6 in Math
• 2 in Second Language
• 2 in Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater
• 5 in Health and Physical Education (4 in Physical Education, 1 in Health Education)
• 7 in Elective Areas

EXAMS 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

• Scores of 65 are generally required.
• However, if you score a 60, 61, 62, 63, or 64 on one or two exams, you may be able to appeal the exam(s) and still graduate. See AFC’s Appeal Options for Regents Exams.
• Students with disabilities and English Language Learners can graduate with lower Regents scores. See AFC’s Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities and High School Promotion and Graduation Requirements for English Language Learners.

AND one State-approved exam of your choice, 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
CHANGES DURING COVID-19

If you planned to take a Regents exam from June 2020 to January 2022, you may be eligible for a COVID-19 exemption to the exam. To learn more, check out this tip sheet.*

If you pass a Regents course and take the Regents exam in that subject between June 2022 and August 2023, you can appeal scores of 50-64, instead of the usual 60-64, and still earn a Regents Diploma. You do not need to (1) take the exam twice, (2) take advantage of academic help at your school, or (3) get a recommendation to qualify.

*The U.S. History Regents exam was also cancelled in June 2022, though not due to COVID-19. If you were supposed to take that Regents exam, you are eligible for a Regents exemption.

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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