



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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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