



# 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 A.P. exam, or a Career and Technical Education assessment;
- A Career Development and Occupational Skills Credential (CDOS).

Students who attend **Consortium (PBAT) schools** may complete PBATs (Performance-Based Assessment Tasks) instead of certain required Regents exams.

For more about graduation requirements, see AFC's [Graduation Requirements fact sheet](#).

### There are exceptions and appeals.

All students can appeal some 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](#).

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](#).

If you experience a major life event (such as a health crisis or family trauma) and can't take or pass your Regents exam or other state-approved test (such as a language test, A.P. exam, or a Career and Technical Education (CTE) assessment) as a result, you may be eligible for an exemption. To qualify, a student must be enrolled in a Regents course; pass the course; and be unable to take the exam due to the impact of a major life event. Exemptions are approved by the school superintendent (or principal for charter/nonpublic schools), and parental consent is needed. Learn more from the [NYS Education Department's Frequently Asked Questions page on Major Life Exemptions](#).

### 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 also must complete lab requirements. If you aren't signed up for a Regents exam and want to be, talk to your school counselor.

### 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)

## **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 school counselor to schedule you for the test the next time it is administered.

## **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](http://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 counselor or principal. For more information, check out AFC's guides to [Special Education](#) and [Section 504](#).

## **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](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/regents-hse-exam-pathway-frequently-asked-questions) for more information.

### **▶ HELPFUL LINKS ◀**

**AFC's [High School Graduation Requirements Fact Sheet](#)**

**AFC's [Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities Fact Sheet](#)**

**AFC's [Appeal Options for Regents Exams](#)**

**AFC's [Guide to Special Education](#)**

**AFC's [Guide to Section 504](#)**

**[New York City Public School's Academic Policy Guide](#)**

**[New York State Education Department Regents Exam Manual](#)**

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

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