

New York State Graduation Requirements

Understanding Current New York State Diploma Requirements

To earn a NYS diploma, students must meet credit and exam requirements. These requirements are separate and distinct and do not have to happen simultaneously.

Note: School districts may create diploma requirements in addition to those required by the NYS Education Department (NYSED).

Credit Requirements

This table shows the number of credits required for each subject. It's important to note in most subjects, students choose the courses they want to take to meet the minimum requirements.

	Minimum number of credits
English	4
Social Studies	4
<i>Distributed as follows:</i>	
<i>Global History and Geography (2)</i>	
<i>U.S. History (1)</i>	
<i>Participation in Government (½)</i>	
<i>Economics (½)</i>	
Science	3
<i>Distributed as follows:</i>	
<i>Life Science (1)</i>	
<i>Physical Science (1)</i>	
<i>Life Science or Physical Science (1)</i>	
Mathematics	3
Languages Other than English (LOTE)	1*
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	1
Physical Education <i>(participation each semester)</i>	2
Health	0.5
Electives	3.5
Total	22

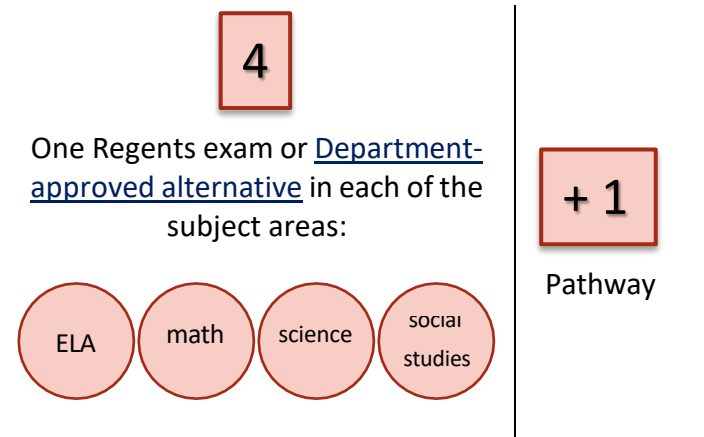
* Students with disabilities may be excused from the requirement for 1 unit of credit in LOTE if indicated on their IEP, but they must still earn 22 units of credit to graduate.



Exam Requirements

In addition to the 22 units of credit, students must also meet the NYS exam requirements to earn a diploma.

To meet the exam requirements, students must pass 4 exams + 1 pathway. All students must pass one exam (Regents exam or Department-approved alternative) in each of the four subject areas (English, mathematics, science, social studies) plus one pathway.



Note: If students are not able to earn a passing score of 65 on Regents exams, they may be eligible for [Appeals](#), [Safety Nets](#), and/or [Superintendent Determination](#). Additional information can be referenced in The [New York State Graduation Requirements: Additional Options](#) flyer.



Pathway Requirements

Multiple pathways allow students choice in the exams they pass to earn a diploma. To complete a pathway, students must:

Arts Pathway	Earn a passing score on a Department-approved pathway exam in the Arts to earn the Arts pathway
CDOS (Career Development and Occupation Studies) Pathway	Complete 216 hours of CTE coursework (about 2 courses) that includes 54 hours of Work Based Learning, complete a career plan and an Employability profile, <u>or</u> pass a Department-approved CDOS pathway exam
CTE (Career and Technical Education) Pathway	Successfully complete a Department-approved CTE program, including 3-5 CTE courses and earn a passing score on the 3-part technical exam
Humanities Pathway	Earn a passing score on one additional Regents exam or Department-approved alternative in English or social studies
LOTE (Languages other than English) Pathway	Earn a passing score on a Department-approved pathway exam in a language other than English
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Pathway	Earn a passing score on one additional Regents exam or Department-approved alternative in mathematics or science



Diploma Types

There are currently three types of high school diplomas: local, Regents, and Regents with Advanced Designation.

Local

All diploma types require students to earn 22 units of credit as outlined in the credit table. Students who meet the credit requirements and use appeals, safety nets, or Superintendent Determination to meet the exam requirements typically earn a local diploma.

Regents

Students who meet the credit requirements and earn passing scores on all required exams earn a Regents diploma. Students can appeal one Regents exam no more than 5 points below passing (60-64) and still earn a Regents diploma.

Regents with Advanced Designation

Students who meet the credit requirements, earn passing scores on all required exams including 2 additional math and 1 additional science, and complete a sequence in LOTE, the Arts, or CTE, earn a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation.

Resources

- [General Education and Diploma Requirements](#)
- [New York State Diploma Requirements](#)
- [New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements](#)
- [Commissioner's Regulations \(8 CRR-NY §100.5, Diploma Requirements\)](#)

Questions?

Contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at emscgradreq@nysed.gov or (518)474-5922