

**New York**  
**Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies**

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	All students in New York are required to pass 5 Regents Examinations order to receive a diploma. However, students may substitute an acceptable score on a department-approved alternative examination (such as the SAT II, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate Exams)
Type of test	End-of-course (achievement tests aligned to New York State learning standards)
Purpose	<p>The purpose of the exam is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide schools with student academic achievement information</li> <li>• Determine prospective high school graduates’ knowledge and skill levels relative to those needed for entry-level employment</li> <li>• Determine prospective high school graduates’ knowledge and skill levels relative to those needed for postsecondary education</li> <li>• Determine prospective high school graduates’ mastery of the state curriculum</li> <li>• Encourage districts and schools to identify and serve students at risk of academic failure</li> <li>• Provide data to state policymakers on student attainment of state education goals to inform educational policy decisions</li> <li>• Increase alignment of local curriculum and programs of instruction with state education standards</li> <li>• Promote equity of opportunity across all student groups</li> <li>• Meet a state mandate</li> </ul>
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of foreign language exams</li> <li>• Changes in how often certain exams are offered</li> </ul>
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	The Board of Regents has adopted the NYS Common Core State Standards and will be aligning its exit exams to it.

Year first administered	1878
Year diplomas first withheld	Students who first entered grade 9 in September 1996 and thereafter.
Subjects tested on exam	English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies
Subjects required for graduation	English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies
Grade exam first administered	Varies, depending on when students complete the course associated with a particular Regents Examination
Grade(s) exam aligned to	Grades 9-12 (commencement level) of the New York State learning standards
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Most Regents Examinations are administered three times a year, in January, June, and August. Students may retake the examinations during any of these three administrations. Students may retake as many times as necessary.
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Students are eligible to continue working toward a diploma, including retaking the required exams, until the end of the school year in which they reach age 21.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Yes
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability	Yes

<p>purposes?</p>	
<p>Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year</p>	<p>Yes. The Regents have considered increasing the passing score on key Regents exams to better align high school graduation requirements with college and career ready standards.</p> <p>For more information see:  <a href="http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2011Meetings/March2011/311p12ccrgradrepresentation.pdf">http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2011Meetings/March2011/311p12ccrgradrepresentation.pdf</a></p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities</p>	<p>Students who have completed the course in a subject tested by a Regents Examination may substitute a minimum acceptable score on a department-approved alternative examination (such as the SAT II, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate exam) for a Regents Examination score.</p> <p>An appeals process is available to students who have entered 9th grade in September 2005 or later, have passed certain courses to prepare for a Regents Examination, have earned a 65 course average, and whose highest score on the Regents Examination is within three points of the 65 passing score. These students may appeal for permission to graduate with a local or Regents diploma using this lower score.</p> <p>Depending upon the year of student’s first entry to grade 9, a student who has passed with a 65 some of the five required Regents Examinations may earn a local diploma with a score of 55 on the remaining required Regents Examinations. Except for students with disabilities, this is not an alternative for students who first started grade 9 in September 2008 and thereafter. Students who do not earn passing scores on the required examinations may retake them.</p>
<p>Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>No response</p>

<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities</p>	<p>Students with disabilities who enrolled in 9th grade prior to September 2010 and who fail a required Regents Examination may still receive a regular diploma if they pass the corresponding Regents Competency Test (RCT), an assessment available for students with disabilities.</p> <p><b>RCT Safety Net</b></p> <p>In October 2003, the Board of Regents approved an extension of the RCT safety net for students with disabilities. This action extends the safety net for an additional five years to make it available to all eligible students with disabilities entering 9th grade from the 1996-97 school year through the 2009-10 school year.</p> <p>Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2001-02 school year, in order to earn a high school Regents diploma, students need to take and pass five specific Regents examinations with a score of 65 or higher (see attached chart). The safety net allows students with disabilities who do not pass one or more of the required Regents examinations to instead meet testing requirements for the local diploma by passing the corresponding RCT(s) or the Department approved alternatives to the RCTs. The school may administer the RCT before or after the Regents examination, but, in all cases, the student must take the required Regents examinations in order to earn the local diploma.</p> <p>As a reminder, the admission requirements for taking the Regents and RCTs and a listing of the Department-approved alternative examinations to the Regents or RCT examinations are described in the Regents Examinations, Regents Competency Tests, and Proficiency Examination: School Administrator’s Manual. For example, only students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 may be admitted to the RCTs in reading</p>

	<p>and writing; they are generally expected to take these tests initially in January of Grade 11.</p> <p><b>55-64 Passing Score</b></p> <p>For students with disabilities who enter grade 9 in 2005 and thereafter, testing requirements for a local diploma may also be met by achieving a score between 55 and 64 on required Regents examinations (English, Mathematics, Science, Global History and U.S. History). The 55-64 passing score must be made available to students with disabilities and is no longer a district option. Refer to section 100.5(5)(a-e) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education for more information at <a href="http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html">http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html</a>.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>No response</p>
<p>Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?</p>	<p>This decision is left to each post-secondary institution.</p>
<p>Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?</p>	<p>This decision is left to each post-secondary institution.</p>
<p>Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?</p>	<p>This decision is left to each post-secondary institution.</p>
<p>Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course</p>	<p>No</p>

credit for their performance on the exit exam?	
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	No response
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	New York has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	New York is a member of PARCC only.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	New York is in the process of aligning its state assessments to the Common Core State Standards.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	This timeline will be available on our website in the near future as well as on <a href="http://www.engageny.org">www.engageny.org</a> .
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	This timeline will be available on our website in the near future as well as on <a href="http://www.engageny.org">www.engageny.org</a> .
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	All of the New York state exams will be aligned to the CCSS.

<p>Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?</p>	<p>More rigorous.</p>
<p>Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.engageny.org">www.engageny.org</a> and <a href="http://www.corestandards.org/">www.corestandards.org/</a>.</p>