

Pathways to Graduation: A Parent's Guide



2018



Mid-South 7
RSE-TASC

Dawn Kalleberg, Transition Specialist

Email: dkalleberg@oncboces.org

P: 607-588-6291 ext. 2101

Stacy McCann, Transition Specialist

Email: smccann@gstboces.org

Web: www.btboces.org/Transition.aspx

135 E. Frederick St.

Binghamton, NY 13904

P: (607)724-2111

Email: ptac@stic-cil.org

Web: www.ptac-stic.com

 Southern Tier PTAC



Mid-South 7
RSE-TASC



Planning for life after high school is an exciting time for students and their parents! It can also be a time of great anxiety if you are not prepared for the day when the school bus stops coming to your door. A critical part of preparing for this transition is learning what is required in order for your child to graduate.

- Did you know that there are different diploma options depending on Regents test score results?
- Have you heard about ways your child can participate in work-based learning, to exit with a CDOS Credential?
- Are you aware of the changes to the graduation requirements for NYS students?

This guide answers these questions and many more by providing information to help you understand all the requirements and multiple pathways to graduation.

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Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC)

The SACC is NOT a diploma
-and-
Available only to students that are New York State Alternately Assessed (NYSAA) eligible

- Students are awarded credential after they have attended at least 12 years of school, excluding Kindergarten, or at the end of the school year in which they turn 21
- Students is provided instruction in alternate CDOS learning standards and opportunities, as appropriate, to engage in instructional and work preparation experiences, both in school and, whenever possible, in the community.
- Student will leave school with a **SACC Exit Summary**, which consists of:
 - a. Level of achievement and independence for each of the CDOS standards: career development; integrated learning; and universal foundation skills including: basic skill in reading, writing, listening, speaking, math and functional math; thinking skills; personal qualities; use of technology; managing information and resources; interpersonal skills; and systems skills.
 - b. Academic skills, as measured by the State assessment for students with severe disabilities (i.e., NYSAA)
 - c. Strengths and interests and, as appropriate, other achievements and accomplishments.

For more information go to:

- [Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential](#)
- [NYS Alternate Assessment Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [CDOS Alternate Grade Level Indicators](#)
- [OPWDD Front Door Initiative](#)

High School Equivalency Diploma- Test Accessing Secondary Completion (HSE-TASC) (formerly the GED)

There are five tests in the TASC test Battery:

Reading; Writing; Social Studies; Science; and Mathematics

- Individuals must pass each section to be awarded a high school equivalency diploma.
- Anyone who has resided in New York State for at least thirty (30) days and who is 16 years of age or older (with certain restrictions) on the day of testing may be eligible to take the TASC Test.

**** If an individual has passed any Regents exams while enrolled in school, they do not need to take that portion of the TASC to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.**

For more information go to:

[NYS HSE TASC Rules and Regulations](#)



High School Diploma

Regents Diploma

22 Credits AND

- **65 Pass** on 4 Regents Exams (1ELA, 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 Social Studies) & either additional course(s) with approved exam in Math, Science, Social Studies, CTE, LOTE, or Arts, OR attainment of CDOS Credential

- **Appeals** of scores of 60-64 for all students (1 appeal= Regents Diploma; 2 appeals= Local Diploma)

Local Diploma via Safety Net for SWDs:

22 Credits AND

- **Low Pass** 55-64 on Regents Exams
- **Appeals** of scores of 52-54 for SWDs

• Compensatory Option

- ⇒ Student may score 45-54 on one or more of the required exams (excluding ELA or Math) if they compensate with scores greater than 65 on other exams AND meet district attendance & course credit requirements (get course credit)

- ⇒ English and Math scores must be greater than 55 OR a successful appeal(s) of 52-54

Superintendent Determination

- ⇒ Student with an IEP may score below 55 on Regents exam(s) and pass, if the superintendent determines that the student has otherwise demonstrated proficiency in the subject area by completing designated procedure and documentation

Credentials

(not a diploma)

Career Development & Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) for ALL Students

- Provided in conjunction with a diploma
- Sole exiting credential for some students with disabilities— students must be provided appropriate opportunities to earn a diploma
- **Option 1:**
 - Career Plan completed annually
 - Minimum 2 units (216hrs) of study in CTE coursework including at least 54 hours of Work-Based-Learning
 - Completion of Employability Profile
 - attainment of commencement level CDOS standards
- **Option 2:**
 - attainment of nationally recognized work readiness credential

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

- NYSAA eligible & assessed students
- Attended 12 years excluding K, or end of year attains age of 21
- CDOS learning standards instruction including community & work-based learning
- Accompanied by designated comprehensive Student Exit Summary document



Student Exit College and Career Ready

November 2018 update

High School Equivalency Diploma

- Pass Test Accessing Secondary Completion (TASC) exam

For more information go to:

[NYS Diploma and Credential Requirements](#)

[NYS Education Department \(NYSED\)](#)

REGENTS DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Student MUST:

- Receive 22 Course Credits by receiving a passing grade in their classes
- Receive a score of 65 or above on required Regents exams and Department Approved Alternative exams –or– a successful appeal of 1 Regents exam with a score of 60-64 and all remaining exams with a score of 65 or above
- Meet school attendance requirements
- Students with a disability may be excused from the Language Other Than English requirement if indicated in the IEP but they must still earn 22 credits

For more information about Regents Diploma Options go to:

[General Requirements for a Regents or High School Diploma](#)

REGENTS EXAMINATION APPEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- ✓ Appeal up to 2 Regents exam scores of 60-64 (1 appeal= Regents Diploma, 2 appeals= Local Diploma)
- ✓ Have taken the exam under appeal at least twice
- ✓ Evidence student took advantage of academic assistance
- ✓ Course grade must be passing
- ✓ Be recommended by teacher or department chairperson
- ✓ Parent or student can [request the appeal](#)

Does NOT change the exam score



APPEAL OPTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Same appeal criteria as listed above **except**

- ✓ Appeal Regents Exam scores of 52-54

Appeal Procedure:

1. The [request](#) for an appeal is initiated by the student, parent or teacher
2. Request is submitted to the school's principal
3. The school's appeal committee will meet to determine if the student has demonstrated the knowledge and skills required for the NYS Learning Standards
4. The school superintendent and the student will be notified of the decision

For more information go to:

[Regents Exam Appeals](#)

CDOS 3 Learning Standards (what the student is being taught):

Standard 1: Career Development- become informed about the world of work

Standard 2: Integrated Learning– use academic skills in the workplace

Standard 3a– Universal Foundation Skills– acquire the “soft skills” needed in the workplace

Standard 3b– Career Majors– acquire career specific skills

CDOS documentation collected by school and placed in student's records

1. **Student Career Plan** (updated annually)- *kept in student's permanent records*
AND
2. **CDOS Standards Commencement Level Documentation**– *evidence that student has met the standards*
AND
- 3a. **Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework and 54 hours Work-Based Learning (WBL)** (2 units total 216 hours)- *noted on student transcript*
AND/OR
- 3b. **216 hours WBL**– *noted on student transcript*
AND
4. **Employability Profile**– *kept in student's permanent records*

For more information go to:

- [Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential Overview](#)
- [CDOS Learning Standards at 3 Levels](#)
- [CDOS Resource Guide and Core Curriculum](#)
- [Work Based Learning Programs Manual](#)
- [Career Zone](#)
- [ACCES-VR](#)

Career Development and Occupational Studies– Commencement Credential (CDOS) Requirements

- The CDOS is **NOT** a diploma
- Available to all students EXCEPT those that are [NYSAA eligible](#)
- CDOS focuses on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Work Based Learning (WBL) by completing 216 hours or 2 units of CTE coursework with a minimum of 54 hours of WBL –OR– all 216 hours can be WBL
- Student must remain in school at least 12 years, not including kindergarten
- Students work towards obtaining a high school diploma and a CDOS credential at the same time
- CDOS Credential may also be used as a 4 + 1 option for students working towards a Regents Diploma (see pg. 5) in some cases
- Student must meet the requirements of Option 1 or Option 2 (see below)

Two Options for Students to Earn a CDOS

Option 1 (most common)

- Career Plan
- Employability Profile
- Demonstrated achievement of CDOS Standards at the Commencement Level (Standards 1, 2, 3a and 3b if student is enrolled in CTE)
- Successful completion of a least 216 hours of CTE and/or WBL experiences (of which at least 54 hours MUST be WBL)

Option 2

In lieu of a student meeting the requirements for Option 1, a district may award a student this credential if the student has met the requirements for one of the nationally recognized rigorous work readiness credentials

CTE– Career Technical Education

WBL– Work-Based Learning



4+1 Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Required for High School Graduation:

English Regents 1 Math Regents*
1 Science Regents* 1 Social Studies Regents*
+ at least one of the following:



*Any Regents Exam in these subject areas

Humanities Pathway	STEM Pathway	CTE Pathway	CDOS Pathway	Arts Pathway	Bi-Literacy Pathway
Second social studies exam or Department Approved Alternative	Second math or science exam or Department Approved Alternative	Completion of State-Approved Career and Technical Education program and assessment	Complete the Requirements for Option I or Option II of the Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential	Completion of Arts Sequence and Department Approved Pathway Exam	Completion of foreign language Sequence and Department Approved Pathway Exam

PATHWAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS

To obtain a **Regents Diploma** using the 4 plus 1 option a student must receive a score of 65 or above (or obtain one successful appeal of a 60-64), on 4 required Regents exams (1-English, 1-Math, 1-Science, 1-Social Studies). The student can then substitute an approved pathway exam or another Regents exam in place of the 2nd Social Studies Regents exam

To obtain a **Local Diploma** using the 4 plus 1 option a student must receive a score of 65 or above on 3 of the required Regents exams, one pathway exam, and have a successful appeal of up to two Regents exam scores of 60-64

PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities can also combine a 4 plus 1 option with either the low pass or compensatory safety net option to obtain a **Local Diploma**. Safety Net and Pathways criteria would need to be met to obtain the diploma (see pg.6 for the criteria)

For more information go to:

[Multiple Pathways Q & A](#) [Multiple Pathways to Graduation](#)

SAFETY NET OPTIONS

Eligibility Requirements for BOTH options:

- ✓ Student has an IEP **or** was declassified in grades 8– 12 but CSE recommended that the student be eligible for local diploma **or** was recommended in student's 504 Plan
- ✓ Student has a satisfactory attendance rate
- ✓ Student earned a passing grade in the class

Low Pass Option

Student can score 55-64 on required Regents exams to obtain a local diploma

Low Pass Option with Appeal

Student scores between 52-54 on up to two Regents examinations can appeal to graduate with a local diploma using this lower score.

Compensatory Option

A score of 65 or more on any Regents exam may compensate for a score of 45-54 on a Social Studies or Science Regents exam. A one for one exchange for up to two exams is allowed. Students must pass the English and Math Regents with a 55 or higher (*or receive a successful appeal of a grade 52-54 on one or both of these exams*).

Exam	Score
English	56
Math	58
Social Studies	48
Science	67
Plus Science	60

In this example the Science exam compensates for the Social Studies exam and the student will graduate with a Local Diploma

****Students may combine the compensatory safety net option and one of the low pass options to graduate with a local diploma.**

For more information go to:

[Safety Net Qualifications](#)

[Safety Net Options Feb. 2017](#)

SUPERINTENDENT DETERMINATION

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Student must have current IEP and be receiving special education services
- ✓ Student must have passed the Regents classes and received course credit
- ✓ Student did not meet the graduation requirements through the low pass (55-64) or the compensatory safety net options
- ✓ Student must have taken and received a minimum score of 55 on both the ELA and Mathematics Regents examinations or a successfully appealed score between 52 and 54, **OR** completed the CDOS-CC (see pg. 9) requirements after December 12, 2017
- ✓ Student participated in taking the Regents exams but did not pass one or more
- ✓ Student must demonstrate graduation-level proficiency in the subject area(s) where they were unable to receive a passing grade on the Regents exam

Procedure:

1. Parent/ guardian must send a written request to the school's superintendent. A sample form can be found at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/documents/parent-request-for-superintendent-determination-sample-form.pdf>
2. The superintendent will then review and document that there is evidence that the student has met the standards for graduation with a local diploma.
3. Once the evidence is reviewed, the student and parent will receive a notification of the superintendent's decision

**** It is important to note that once a student receives their diploma, they are no longer eligible to attend school. The Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) will end even if they are not 21 years old.**

For more information go to:

[Superintendent Determination August 2018](#)

