

New York State



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Summer Leadership Conference - 2017
Issues In Special Education

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PTA Is More Than Bake Sales...



- It is **ALL** about **ADVOCACY**.
- PTA advocacy doesn't end in June. It goes on all year long.

“What” Makes Special Ed So Special

- Specially designed instruction.
- Available at no cost to parents.
- Designed to meet the needs of a child with a disability.
- Provided in the most typical setting appropriate for the child.

Special Education is not a place.



Things To Remember...

- There is a difference between what your child needs and what a parent “thinks” their child needs. **KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.**
- Special education services are not required to maximize potential. Law only requires appropriate.
- IEP is not a guaranteed performance contract. School needs to show a good faith effort.

Here Are Some Numbers...

- Children with disabilities cost public schools 2-3x times more than those without disabilities.
- The Federal Government originally committed 40% toward IDEA funding. However, the actual amount funded has been no more than 18.5%



Kids Are More Than \$\$\$

- With a high school diploma Kids earn 37 percent less (or to 63 cents for every dollar) than their general education students do.
- Without a high school diploma it is worse. Students are not allowed to sit for most civil service exams, pursue post-secondary education or enlist in the military.
- **Dropouts can cost NYS as much as \$3.5 billion dollars in lost tax revenue**





Soft Skills

- "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success," is a curriculum developed by ODEP focused on teaching "soft" or workforce readiness skills to youth, including youth with disabilities.

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/>

Why Special Ed Mandate Relief

- Schools are trying to manage budgets with billions less in state aid.
- Many **STATE** budget reductions are realized by shifting costs to **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**.
- **HOWEVER, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT MANY EDUCATIONAL MANDATES WERE ENACTED TO:**

Address a particular problem.

Ensure students receive essential services.

Budget Advocacy

- Each year, we fight language that could eliminate any special education requirement over and above federal minimums
- The language would allow for districts to apply for waivers from requirements
- NYS PTA opposes this language with the Assembly, and it is routinely rejected

How NYS Differs From Federal Law

- There are differences in New York State Law, Regulations, and Policy that are not **REQUIRED** by Federal Law, Regulations, and Policy.
- **THESE DIFFERENCES ARE THE BASIS FOR A LOT OF THE MANDATE RELIEF.**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/part-b-app/documents/annual-state-application-part-B-idea-2017.pdf>



*Your Child **MUST** Recognize....*

- **The disability does NOT define them!**
- It gives them certain rights to services and protection from discrimination.
- Identify what accommodations work.
- Accommodations do **NOT** change what they learn; an accommodation changes **HOW** they learn!!

Transition Is Not A Dirty Word

- For students of transition age, there must be a CSE discussion of....
 - The graduation requirements that apply to the student and their progress toward the diploma.
 - The courses the student has passed and the number of credits the student has earned.
 - The assessments required for graduation that the student has taken and passed.
 - The appeal, safety net and superintendent determination pathway options.

Important To Remember

- Once the student graduates from the public school system, they are no longer eligible for a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under the IDEA.
- Determine whether it is a good decision to take advantage of the opportunity to stay in school and better prepare for the adult world.

Latest From NYSED

- New graduation requirements....

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/Documents/nysed-diploma-requirements-june-2017.pdf>



Credit Requirements

- Mastering the learning outcomes in a given high school course is locally determined.
- Districts set the course expectations.
- Opportunities for credit by exam are decided by the superintendent and should be made by applying the expectations spelled out in the regulation.
- Credit by exam is only available for courses that culminate in a Regents exam and is intended for students who do NOT complete courses.

Earning Credits

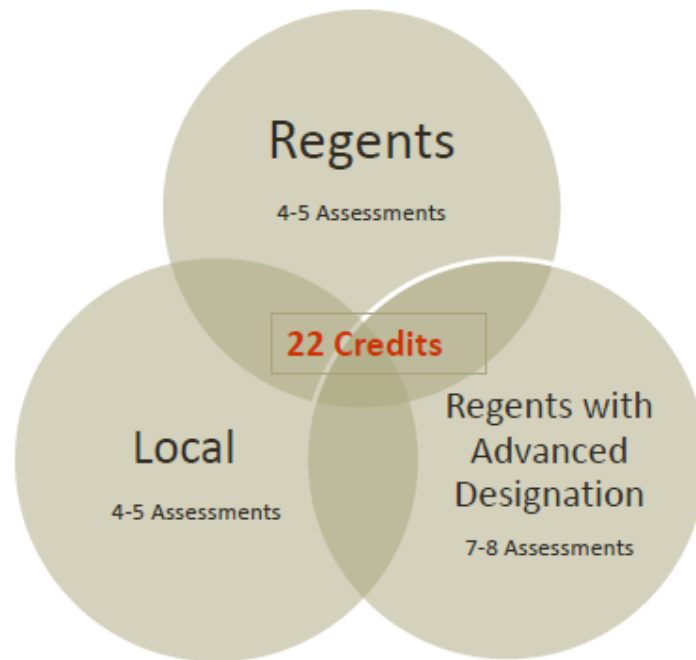
- NYS requirements are separate and distinct and do not have to happen simultaneously.
- Students may earn diploma credit for successfully completing a course but fail to meet the corresponding Regents assessment requirement.
- Students can fail a course and receive no academic credit but fulfill an assessment requirement if they pass a Regents examination in that course.
- As long as students earn the 22 credits in the required disciplines and pass the required assessments in the discipline they meet the diploma requirements.

Diploma Options

- Regents with Advanced Designation
- Regents
- Local Diploma
- Multiple Pathways (4 + 1)
- Exiting Credentials

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718PathwaystoGraduation.pdf>

Diploma Types



Pathways 4+1

CDO

All students must pass
4 Required Regents Examinations:
One in each discipline



Pathways

Humanities

STEM

Arts

LOTE

CTE

CDOS

(6)

Dual Role of Career Development Occupational Studies

CDOS as a Pathway to Local or Regents Diploma

- Passing Regents Examinations in

- ELA
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies



- All the CDOS Credential Requirements

CDOS as a Standalone Credential

- Students are unable to successfully complete all the Regents or local diploma requirements but do complete all the CDOS credential requirements

CDOS Commencement Credential Requirements – 2 Options

CDOS Commencement Credential – Option 1

- Available to all students except students assessed using the New York State Alternate Assessment seeking the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. Available as a stand alone credential or added to a Local or Regents diploma.
- Criteria:
 - Career Plan
 - Employability Profile
 - Demonstrated achievement of CDOS Standards
 - 216 hours of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning experiences (of which at least 54 hours must be in work-based learning experiences)

CDOS Commencement Credential – Option 2

- Available to all students except students assessed using the New York State Alternate Assessment seeking the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. Available as a stand alone credential or added to a Local or Regents diploma.
- Criteria - meeting the requirements for one of the nationally recognized work readiness credentials
 - National Work Readiness Credential;
 - SkillsUSA Work Force Ready Employability Assessment;
 - National Career Readiness Certificate WorkKeys - (ACT);
 - Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems Workforce Skills Certification System.

Local Diploma

- All students can meet the local diploma requirements by.....
- Passing 3 required examinations with a 65 or better; and
- Passing 2 required examinations with a 60-64 for which an appeal is granted by the local district
- Students with disabilities can use this option but would not need to because they have access to the low pass safety nets
- If students are eligible for waivers of certain Regents Examinations because of their transfer status from outside NY State, they are still eligible to appeal scores on up to two of the remaining required Regents Examinations
- **This is the only avenue that provides for a general education student to earn a local diploma**

Local Diploma – 4 Ways

(1) All Students - Appeal

	Local Diploma via Appeal for <u>All Students</u>	
Regents Exam or passing score on a Department Approved Alternative	# of Exams	Passing Score
English Language Arts (ELA)	1	2 exams with a score of 60-64 for which an appeal has been granted by the district and all other required exams with a 65 or greater
Math	1	
Science	1	
Social Studies	1	
Pathway	1 or CDOS	
Compensatory Safety Net	Non Applicable	

(3) Students with a Disability

Low Pass Safety Nets

Local Diploma for Students with a Disability via low pass safety nets		
Regents Exam or passing score on a Dept. App. Alt	# of Exams	Passing Score
English Language Arts (ELA)	1	55*
Math	1	55*
Science	1	55* ^
Social Studies	1	55* ^
Pathway	1 or CDOS	55* ^ (if Regents exam)
Compensatory Safety Net	Scores of 45-54 on any required Regents exam (except ELA and Mathematics) can be compensated by a score of 65 or above on another required Regents exam including ELA and Mathematics.	

*Students with a disability seeking the local diploma through the low pass safety-net may appeal scores of 52-54 on up to two Regents Examinations.

^ Students with a disability who are unable to obtain a passing score on these examinations may seek a local diploma by Superintendent's Determination. See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2017-memos/superintendent-determination-of-graduation-with-a-local-diploma-updated.htm>

(4) Superintendents Determination of a Local Diploma

Added as an option at the June 2016 BOR meeting; amended October 2016

- Eligibility:
 - Student with a current IEP
 - Passed ELA and Math Regent exams with a score of 55 or has successfully appealed a score of 52-54
 - has participated in the other Regents exams (science and social studies), but has not passed one or more of these as required for graduation
 - demonstrated competency in the subject area where the student was not able to demonstrate his/her proficiency of the State's learning standards through the Regents exam
 - Earned all required credits and passed, in accordance with district policy, all courses required for graduation
- Applicable to June 2016 grads and thereafter

Information and forms: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2017-memos/superintendent-determination-of-graduation-with-a-local-diploma-updated.htm>

Some IEP Strategies

NOTE: NYS is moving away from Common Core Learning Standards to the Next Generation Standards

- New York State Education Department: Common Core and how they will impact students who have disabilities.
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/commoncore/instructionCCLS-parents-614.htm>
- IEPs that will help students with disabilities meet the higher academic standards.
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/commoncore/roleofCSE-614.htm>

To ensure students with disabilities have access to participate and progress in the general curriculum, schools are expected to:

1. develop and implement an IEP which includes annual goals based on information about a student's strengths, needs and present levels of performance. Goals should be aligned with and chosen to facilitate the student's attainment of chronological grade-level academic standards;
2. ensure that recommended supports and services are provided within the least restrictive environment to meet a student's needs and to assist the student to be successful in the general education curriculum to meet grade level standards; and
3. ensure that teachers, including special education teachers and support personnel, are knowledgeable about the curriculum the school is using to implement the new standards and are prepared and qualified to deliver high-quality, evidence-based specially designed instruction and support services.

Additional Information From NYSED

- General Ed and Diploma Requirements Web Page:
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/intro.html>
- NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/>
- Graduation Requirements Information E-mail Box
- emscgradreq@nysed.gov

Resources & Supports

- NYSED – Transitions:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/transition/sandf.htm>
- ACCES – VR: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/>
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities: <https://www.opwdd.ny.gov/>

Finally...

- Special Education students are among the most vulnerable and need people to speak up for them.
- Too often changes occur because nobody spoke up or didn't know how.
- Together we can make a difference for all kids.

Together We Can Help Each Other



Take The Time To Enjoy The Good Moments. Savor Every Smile, Every Hug And Every Moment Of Every Triumph

Thank You For Attending!!

“Where Do We Go From Here”

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