

New York State

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Leading the Way



Every child in New York deserves access to a meaningful high school diploma, one that will allow all students to successfully transition into a career or college experience.

Current regulation allows for many options for a high school diploma, such as:

1. Regents with Advanced Designation;
2. Regents;
3. Local Diploma (in limited circumstances);
4. The 4+1 Multiple Pathway; and
5. A Superintendent Determination for certain students with disabilities.

We fully support the recent Emergency Regulation, adopted by the Board of Regents, which allows a "Superintendent Determination" for graduation with a local diploma.

Approximately 17% of our students have a disability, and we must see that each child is adequately supported.

A Meaningful Diploma for ALL Students

NYS PTA strongly supports a meaningful diploma for ALL students and other safety net options for students with disabilities.

Under the new Emergency Rule, which will be adopted as final in the coming months, a Superintendent is now allowed to make a local determination that a student with a disability has met standards for a local high school diploma even when:

- The student has not been successful at demonstrating proficiency on one or more Regents exams required for graduation; and/or
- The student does not meet graduation requirements through low pass safety net (55-64) or compensatory net options.

The student's parent must submit a written request to the superintendent to be considered for this option. This diploma pathway is available only for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), not a Section 504 accommodation plan.

Read more at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability-cops/documents/intendentdeterminationoptionandsafetynetoptionsforswd.pdf>

However, the new Superintendent Determination is not retroactive. Unfortunately for the last few years, many students with disabilities left high school without a meaningful diploma. In some cases, they received a Career Development and Occupational Studies Credential (CDOS). Since this credential is not a diploma, it is not accepted by many employers or the military.

Now that the Superintendent Determination has been implemented, we need a solution for those individuals, who may be over the age of 21, who may or may not have earned a CDOS, but who have departed high school without a meaningful diploma. Regrettably, these young adults will not be given the opportunity to re-enter school to attempt to qualify for one. Statistics show that students with disabilities, even with a high school diploma, earn 37% less than their peers.

Therefore, NYS PTA strongly supports immediate regulatory action which would allow a diploma option for ALL students who may not have qualified before.

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