

Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Cancellation of the January 2022 New York State (NYS) High School Regents Examinations

This resource addresses frequently asked questions related to the [Cancellation of the January 2022 Administration of the New York State \(NYS\) High School Regents Examination Program in Response to the Ongoing Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic memo](#). Topics include:

- Eligibility
- Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs)
- Endorsements
- Recording / Reporting Exemptions

Eligibility

1. Are all students intending to take a January 2022 Regents Examination exempted from the associated diploma requirement?

In order to qualify for an exemption from a January 2022 Regents Examination, a student must meet one of the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in a course of study that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of a January 2022 Regents Examination and earn credit for such course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Be enrolled in a course of study in grade 7 or 8 that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of a January 2022 Regents Examination and meet the learning standards for such course of study; or
- Between September 1, 2021 and the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year, successfully complete a make-up program for the purpose of earning course credit in a course of study that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of a January 2022 Regents Examination; or
- Be preparing to take a required Regents Examination in order to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Transferred to a NYS high school from either a high school located outside of NYS or from another NYS high school in which Regents Examinations were not administered and earned transfer credit in a course for which they intended to take a corresponding Regents Examination in January 2022.

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific Regents Examination to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation).

2. In order for a student to be exempted from a January 2022 Regents Examination, must the student have earned credit in the course?

Yes. In order to qualify for an exemption from a January 2022 Regents Examination, students must have earned credit in the associated course by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

3. **Typically, our school's Grade 11 students take the Regents Examination in English Language Arts in January. If this is our standard practice, would our students qualify for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in English Language Arts?**

In order to qualify for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in English Language Arts, the student must earn credit for the course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year. If the course of study, typically the third full NYS or sixth NYCDOE credit in English Language Arts, continues through the end of the second semester of the 2021-22 school year, students would not qualify for an exemption from the Regents Examination requirement for English Language Arts.

4. **If a student did not qualify for a Regents Examination exemption in June or August 2021 because they were unable to earn credit in the course, are they now eligible for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination?**

As long as the student completes a make-up program to earn course credit by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year, the student would qualify for a January 2022 Regents Examination exemption.

5. **Is a transfer student who earned transfer credit for a course that would typically culminate in a Regents Examination and intended to take the associated Regents Examination in January, eligible for the exemption?**

If, a high school granted transfer credit for a course that typically culminates in a Regents Examination in the school granting credit, and the student was preparing to take the Regents Examination in January 2022, the student is eligible for the exemption.

6. **Is a student, who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to January 2022 and intended to retake the Regents in January 2022 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for a Regents Examination exemption?**

No. Any student who passed a Regents Examination with a score of 65 or higher prior to January 2022 is not eligible for the exemption.

7. **Can a student earn credit by examination if the student intended to take the associated Regents Examination in January 2022 and the student successfully completes an oral examination or special project?**

No. Students cannot earn credit by examination when Regents Examinations are cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. **Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be eligible for an exemption to a Regents Examination in Science?**

If a student completed a course culminating in a Regents Examination in science during the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year but was excused from the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement due to the COVID-19 crisis, those minutes remain waived. However, no similar waiver for laboratory minutes exists for the 2021-22 school year. Additional information may be found in the [Virtual Laboratory Experiences and the 1,200 Minute Science Laboratory Requirement for the 2021-22 School Year](#) memo.

9. **Can parents decline an exemption from an assessment requirement?**

The parents or persons in parental relation of **students who are eligible to graduate** in the 2021-22 school year and beyond **as a result of having met an assessment requirement through an exemption** at any time may decline such exemptions. Specifically, if the parent or person in parental relation explicitly declines the exemption of a Regents Examination, a

NYSED Approved Alternative examination, a Pathway examination or an exemption to the unfinished Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential requirements applied to his/her child as a result of COVID, a diploma will not be conferred on such student until such student meets the applicable diploma requirement.

Additional information can be referenced in the [Parental Right to Decline Examination Waivers memo](#) (December 2020) and the Parental Right to Decline Examination Waivers memo (May 2020). The [Regents Examination Exemption Declination Form for Parents](#) is also available.

Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs)

10. If a student with a disability or an ELL has access to safety net options or appeals leading to a local diploma, should schools consider exempted exams to represent a score of 55 or 65?

All exempted exams for all students should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma type determinations, except for purposes of applying the compensatory safety net option. No numeric score shall be reported on the student's transcript. Reference question 11 for additional information on the compensatory safety net option and question 18 for information on reporting exemptions.

11. Students with disabilities have access to the compensatory safety net option where a score of 65 or above on one Regents Examination can compensate for a score of 45-54 on another Regents Examination. Can an exempted Regents Examination be used to compensate for a Regents Examination score of 45-54 for students with disabilities who are using the compensatory safety net option?

No, students with disabilities eligible for the compensatory safety net may not use Regents Examination exemptions to compensate for scores of 45-54.

12. In light of the cancellation of the January 2022 Regents Examinations, are students intending to take a January 2022 Checkpoint B examination in a World Language — also exempted from the associated diploma requirement?

In order to qualify for an exemption from a January 2022 Checkpoint B World Language (formerly LOTE) examination, a student must, between September 1, 2021 and the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year, successfully complete a course or a makeup program for the purposes of earning course credit that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of a Checkpoint B World Language examination. Students may only earn an exemption if the Checkpoint B World Language examination ordinarily administered to students at the conclusion of the fall semester is not available as a result of the COVID pandemic.

13. Can a student earn associated points towards the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) if the student is granted an exemption from a Regents Examination in English Language Arts?

Yes. A student who has received an exemption from a Regents Examination in English Language Arts can apply this exemption towards criterion 1A of the NYSSB's "Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in English," so long as the student has demonstrated proficiency in the English Language Arts learning standards assessed through the provided coursework and earned credit for such a course that culminates in a Regents Examination in English Language Arts by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

14. Can an ELL earn associated points towards the NYSSB if the student is granted exemptions from two Regents Examinations from January 2022 to fulfill the requirements for criterion 1A of the NYSSB of earning a score of 75 or higher on two Regents Examinations other than English without translation?

Yes. ELLs who, due to COVID-19-related school closures, have received exemptions from two Regents Examination in subjects other than English can apply those exemptions towards criterion 1A of the NYSSB's "Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in English," so long as the student has demonstrated proficiency in the course learning standards assessed through the provided coursework and earned credit for such courses that culminate in the associated Regents Examinations at the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Endorsements

15. Can a student earn the mastery endorsement(s) in mathematics and/or science if the student is granted an exemption from a Regents Examination in mathematics and/or science?

Yes. Students may earn the Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science endorsement(s) if the student meets the requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and:

- passes 3 math and/or 3 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher; or
- passes 2 math and/or 2 science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or higher and has been granted an exemption on a third math and/or science Regents Examination; or
- passes 1 math and/or 1 science Regents Examination with an 85 or higher and has earned a final course grade of 85 or higher in 2 additional math and/or science courses culminating in a Regents Examination for which they were granted an exemption.

Example 1: A student has earned a score of 90 on the Algebra I Regents Examination, a score of 87 on the Geometry Regents Examination, and received an exemption from the Algebra II Regents Examination. This student passed 2 Regents Examinations with an 85 or above and received an exemption from a third Regents Examination in mathematics, therefore the student earned the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement.

Example 2: A student earned a score of 90 on the Living Environment Regents Examination, a score of 96 on the Earth Science Regents Examination, and an exemption from both the Chemistry Regents Examination and the Physics Regents Examination. Since the student passed two science Regents Examinations with a score of 85 or above and received an exemption from a third Regents Examination in science, the student is deemed to have met the requirements for the Mastery in Science endorsement. In this case, the student's final course grade does not need to be considered.

Example 3: A student passed the Algebra I Regents Examination with a score of 85, received an exemption from the Geometry Regents in June 2020, and received an exemption from the Algebra II Regents Examination in June 2021. If the student earned a course grade of 85 or above in both Geometry and Algebra II, the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement will be added to the student's diploma.

16. Can a student earn the honors endorsement if the student is granted a Regents Examination exemption?

Yes. The calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents Examinations the student has completed.

Students with a minimum of three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

In instances where students have at least three scored Regents Examinations to be included in the assessments required for the diploma type, exemptions due to COVID-19 would be removed from the calculation. If the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Example: A student meets the assessment requirements for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with the following Regents Examination scores:

- English language Arts, exemption
- Algebra I, 92
- Geometry, 94
- Algebra II, exemption
- Living Environment, 90
- Earth Science, 89
- Chemistry, exemption
- Global History and Geography, 98

Since the student has at least three scored Regents Examinations, the exemptions may be removed from the calculation for the honors endorsement.

Computed Average: $(92 + 94 + 90 + 89 + 98) \div 5 = 92.6$

Since the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma type equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement. The student's final course grades do not need to be considered in this case, since the student has completed at least three scored Regents Examinations.

Students with fewer than three scored Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

The student's final course grade for each exempted Regents Examination will be substituted in the calculation for honors. If the computed average of the scored Regents Examinations and the final course grades for courses for which exemptions were granted equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Example: A student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following examination scores:

- Regents Examination in English Language Arts, exemption
 - *Final course grade, 94*
- Regents Examination in Algebra I, 92
- Regents Examination in Earth Science, 89
- Regents Examination in Global History and Geography, exemption
 - *Final course grade, 96*
- Regents Examination in US History and Government, exemption (+1 pathway)
 - *Final course grade, 88*

Since the student has fewer than three scored Regents Examinations, the student's final course grades for the courses for which exemptions were granted must be substituted in the calculation for the honors endorsement.

Computed Average: $(94 + 92 + 89 + 96 + 88) \div 5 = 91.8$

Since the computed average of the two Regents Examination scores (92, 89) and the final course grades (94, 96, 88) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

17. How should Department Approved Alternatives be considered in the calculation for the honors endorsement?

To be eligible for the honors endorsement, students may substitute no more than two Department Approved Alternatives for the required Regents Examinations. Department Approved Alternatives would be removed from the computed average.

Example: A student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following examination scores:

- Regents Examination in English Language Arts, exemption
 - *Final course grade, 88*
- Regents Examination in Algebra I, 92
- Regents Examination in Living Environment, 90
- Regents Examination in US History and Government, exemption
 - *Final course grade, 98*
- AP Biology Exam, exemption (+1 pathway)

Since the student has only one Department Approved Alternative included in the exams applicable to the diploma, it will be removed from the computed average. Additionally, since the student has completed only two scored Regents Examinations, the final course grades must be included in the computed average for those Regents Examinations for which an exemption was granted.

Computed Average:

$$(88 + 92 + 90 + 98) \div 4 = 92$$

Since the computed average of the two Regents Examination scores (92, 90) and the final course grades (88, 98) equals 90 or above, the student earned the honors endorsement.

Recording/Reporting Exemptions

18. How should schools record exemptions from Regents Examinations?

Student transcripts should reflect the examination name and a score of “E” for exempt for those students meeting the eligibility requirements for such exemption outlined above. Schools must report a Standard Achieved Code of “86” with the course of study in which the student earned credit. No other Standard Achieved Code may be used to report these exemptions. The Office of Information and Reporting Services (IRS) will issue complete guidance in the Student Information and Repository System (SIRS) manual for the reporting of January 2022 Regents exemptions. Any questions about the reporting of exemptions in SIRS should be directed to your [Regional Information Center \(RIC\) or Big 5 Level 1 reporting center](#).

State Aid/180 Day Requirement

For state aid purposes, the days on which the Regents exams were previously scheduled to be held will operate like any day during the school year without a Regents exam. Instructional time will count towards the minimum hourly requirement and session days will count towards the statutory 180 day minimum. Districts planning to excuse grades seven through twelve on these days may continue to do so, provided that the district meets the 180 day and minimum hourly requirements exclusive of this time.

Please reference the [Attendance and Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) for frequently asked questions related to State Aid and the 180 Day Requirement. Questions about these requirements may be sent to 180days@nysed.gov.

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Any questions about the exemptions from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to emscgradreq@nysed.gov.

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