

DID YOU KNOW? New York State has been making changes to high school graduation requirements and options. The most common graduation options currently available to high school students are explained in the table below

| Graduation Option | Requirements |
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| Regents Diploma* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regents Diploma is awarded to high school students who obtain 44 credits in different courses and receive a passing score of 65 or higher on 5 Regents exams. |
| Local Diploma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Diploma remains an option available to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities may earn a local diploma via one of two “safety nets” by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scoring 55 to 64 on required Regents exams; or Scoring 45 to 54 on one or more of the five required Regents exams, other than the English language arts (ELA) or mathematics exam, but scoring 65 or higher on one or more of the other required Regents exams, in which case the lower score(s) can be compensated by the higher score(s). Students must also pass the course in which they earned a score of 45 to 54 and have satisfactory attendance. This safety net is known as the “compensatory model” and went into effect in October 2012. The Local Diploma option is no longer available to most general education students. The only way for a general education student to earn a Local Diploma is to file an appeal if he or she fails up to two Regents exams, but scores within three points of passing. The Regents Competency Tests (RCTs) are being phased out. Students with disabilities who failed one or more Regents exams used to be able to graduate with a local diploma by passing the corresponding RCT exams. Only students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 2011-2012 academic year are still eligible to receive a Local Diploma via the RCTs. |
| IEP Diploma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with disabilities who are not able to obtain a Regents or Local Diploma currently receive something called an “IEP Diploma,” which is not recognized by colleges or the military. Due to concerns regarding widespread abuses of the IEP Diploma, it is being phased out at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. |
| Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning July 1, 2013, this credential will be made available to students with severe disabilities who, because of their disability, cannot take regular State assessments and instead take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA). The credential is a certificate that will be awarded along with a Student Exit Summary. The Student Exit Summary will document the student’s achievement of the New York State (NYS) Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards; academic achievement and independence as measured by the NYSAA; and the student’s skills, strengths, and interests. The SACC is NOT equivalent to a regular high school diploma. |
| Career Development and Occupational Studies(CDOS) Commencement Credential | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning July 1, 2013, this credential will be made available to students with disabilities as a supplement to a regular high school diploma or, for a student with a disability who is unable to earn a regular diploma, as the student’s exiting credential. The credential is intended to provide an indication of a student’s readiness for entry-level employment. In order to receive this credential, students will either: (1) complete a career plan, demonstrate achievement of NYS CDOS standards, and complete a specified number of hours of work-based experiential learning and/or Career and Technical |

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| | <p>Education (CTE) courses; or (2) earn one of several nationally recognized work readiness credentials. All students who exit school with this credential will also require an employability profile to be completed by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CDOS Commencement Credential is NOT equivalent to a regular high school diploma. |
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***In addition, a Regents Diploma with Honors and a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation are available to students who meet certain additional credit and exam requirements.**