



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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## Appeal Options for Regents Exams

*New York State has appeal options for high school students whose Regents exam scores are keeping them from earning a diploma. Typically, you must pass 4 or 5 Regents exams, with scores of 65 or higher. But, in certain cases, you can appeal lower scores and still graduate.*

### Low Score Appeal

You may appeal up to two Regents exams if you get a 60, 61, 62, 63 or 64, and meet the requirements below. This option is available to all students.

If you successfully appeal one Regents exam and meet all other testing and course requirements, you will earn a Regents Diploma. If you successfully appeal two Regents exams, you will earn a Local Diploma. You cannot appeal more than two exams.

### English Language Learner (ELL) Appeal

If you first enrolled in a New York school in 9th grade or later and you are an English Language Learner (ELL), you may appeal your score on the English Language Arts (ELA) Regents exam if you get a 55-59 and meet the requirements below. If your appeal is successful, you will earn a Local Diploma.

If you use this appeal, you are also allowed to appeal one other exam under the Low Score Appeal (above). For example, an ELL who scores a 55 on the ELA exam and a 63 on the Science exam may appeal both exams to graduate with a local diploma.

### Students with Disabilities Appeal

If you have an IEP, or a 504 plan that says you are eligible for the “safety net,” you can appeal up to two Regents exams if you score a 52, 53 or 54 and meet the requirements below. If your appeal is successful, you will earn a Local Diploma.

There are a lot of other ways that students with disabilities can graduate with lower Regents exam scores. For information, check out AFC's [High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Requirements

To appeal a Regents exam score using any of the appeals above, you must:

- Take the exam at least twice;
- Take advantage of academic help at your school in the same subject as the exam you are appealing;
- Pass your class in the same subject as the exam you are appealing; and
- Be recommended by your teacher or the chair of the department in the same subject as the exam you are appealing.

## CHANGES DURING COVID-19:

If you planned to take a Regents exam from **June 2020 to January 2022**, you may be eligible for a COVID-19 exemption to the exam. To learn more, check out [this tip sheet](#).\*

If you pass a Regents course and take the Regents exam in that subject between **June 2022 and August 2023**, you can appeal scores of 50-64, instead of the usual 60-64, and still earn a Regents Diploma. You do *not* need to (1) take the exam twice, (2) take advantage of academic help at your school, or (3) get a recommendation to qualify.

*\*The U.S. History Regents exam was also cancelled in June 2022, though not due to COVID-19. If you were supposed to take that Regents exam, you are eligible for a Regents exemption.*

**You, your parent/guardian, or you teacher can start the appeal process by filling out [this form](#)** (fill out as much as you can of pages 5-7). The application will be reviewed by a committee made up of the school principal, three teachers, and one other administrator. The committee should make a recommendation to the superintendent within 10 school days. The superintendent will then make a final decision to approve or deny the appeal.

## TYPES OF DIPLOMAS

### *Regents Diploma*

This diploma is awarded to students who earn 22 credits (44 credits in NYC) in specific courses, score 65 or higher on 4 Regents exams (ELA, Math, History, and Science). and either pass one other State-approved exam or complete the requirements for a CDOS Commencement Credential.

### *Local Diploma*

This diploma requires the same number of credits as the Regents Diploma. The Local Diploma is available to the following students:

- Any student who successfully appeals 2 Regents exams;
- Students classified as ELLs who successfully appeal the ELA exam;
- Students with disabilities who use a Safety Net or Superintendent Determination (see AFC's [High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities](#) for more information)

**Both Local and Regents diplomas give you access to college, the military and trade schools.**

### **Still have more questions?**

#### **Please call the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline**

1-866-427-6033 (toll free) • Monday through Thursday • 10 am to 4 pm

*This fact sheet does not constitute legal advice. This fact sheet attempts to summarize existing policies or laws without stating the opinion of AFC. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.*

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