

# NYS REGENTS EXAMS AND HS GRADUATION UPDATES

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Update on graduation requirements for June 2020

This year, parents of eligible students will be asked to decide whether they wish their student to graduate or continue their education.

Due to COVID-19, Regents Exams were cancelled for June and August 2020. If your student was planning to take a Regents exam in June 2020, one or more Regents exams can be waived, which may enable your student to graduate.

**Parents of eligible students will be asked if they would like to take advantage of the waiver, which will allow their student to graduate now with a diploma. If a parent declines the waiver, the student will continue in school next year and must pass the tests next year in order to graduate with a diploma.**

These waivers are only available due to COVID-19, are a one-time decision, and cannot be reversed. This decision is an important one that impacts your student's next steps after high school. Students that continue in school will not have the waiver option next year, and will be required to pass all the required Regents exams or meet safety net requirements by the school year in which they turn 21 years old in order to graduate with a diploma.

If your student is eligible to graduate because of the Regents waiver, you will receive an email, which explains your choices. Reach out to your student's school and [NYCTCAC@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCTCAC@schools.nyc.gov) for assistance making the best decision for your student.

It is very important that you inform the school which option you have chosen for your student. Students with IEPs cannot graduate unless you reply to the email with your decision. Please refer to the Department of Education document titled, "Updates on Graduation Requirements June 2020" (<https://bit.ly/2Ahoxgf>) for information about your choices.

## Updates on Information about Graduation Requirements June 2020 for Families

As a reminder, June and August 2020 Regents exams have been canceled. If your student was planning to take a Regents exam in June, they can waive one or more Regents exams to graduate. Waiving an exam means that your student does not have to pass that exam to graduate. They must still pass the course. If you decide to accept all the Regents exam waivers, your student will graduate as soon as they earn all of their course credits.

You can decide not to have your student waive some or all of their Regents exams if you prefer them to stay in high school in 2020-21. If you choose not to waive a Regents exam, your student will be expected to work toward passing the exam when it is administered in 2020-21. This decision cannot be reversed, and your student will not be eligible for any more Regents waivers due to COVID-19. If your student does not pass all the required Regents exams or meet safety net requirements by the school year in which they turn 21 years old they will not graduate with a diploma.

This is an important decision that impacts your student's next steps after high school. Members of your student's school staff are available to discuss these options with you to help you make the best decision for your student.

If your student is eligible to graduate because of the Regents waiver, you will have received an email or a survey. Once you receive it, you must respond, letting the school know which option you have chosen for your student. Students with IEPs who were planning to return to school for a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year cannot graduate unless you reply to the email with your decision. The email provides the following choices:

- **Option 1 – Accept all waivers:** I accept all Regents waivers for my student. I understand that my student will graduate once they have earned all their course credits. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing, "I accept all waivers."
- **Option 2 – Decline all waivers:** I do not want any Regents exams or CDOS requirements waived for my student. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing, "I decline all waivers."
  - I understand that my student will not graduate this year if I select this option.
  - I understand that my student will remain eligible to receive a free public education until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old, or until they receive a high school diploma, whichever comes first.
  - I understand that in order to receive a diploma in the future, my student will no longer be eligible for waivers and must meet all applicable graduation requirements. This means my student will have to continue preparing for Regents exams in 2020-21.
- **Option 3 – Accept some waivers:** I would like to decline some, but not all, of the Regents waivers for my student. I am available to discuss which exams I would like my student to waive. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing "I accept some waivers."
- **Option 4 – Undecided:** I am not sure. I would like to meet with a school staff member to discuss this decision. To let us know your selection, respond to this email by writing "I am not sure."

Please make sure to respond to the email with your choice. If you do not respond, and your student was planning on 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> school year, your student's school will plan for them to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year, even if they are currently eligible to receive a diploma. The waivers will then no longer be in effect. It is important to reach out to your student's school if you have any questions about this decision. You can also reach out to [NYCTCAC@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCTCAC@schools.nyc.gov).