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TO: Principals of Public, Nonpublic, and Charter Secondary Schools

FROM: Thomas J. Schoeck, Ed.D. 

SUBJECT: Procedures for Requesting and Storing the January 2009 Regents Examinations

All regular, large-type, and braille editions of examinations administered during the January 2009 Regents Examination period and all translated editions of Regents Examinations must be requested online. Directions for using the Department's online examination request system are included in this memorandum and in the enclosed *Instructions for Submitting Your Examination Request Online* (DET 502).

This memorandum provides essential information about requesting and storing the January 2009 examinations. In addition, all persons coordinating the administration of State examinations should be familiar with the publication *Regents Examinations, Regents Competency Tests, and Proficiency Examinations: School Administrator's Manual, 2008 Edition*. You may access this manual on the Department's web site at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/sam/secondary/home.html>.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the School Data Sheet, the School Record of Examinations Requested (DET 501), Instructions for Submitting Your Examination Request Online (DET 502), and the schedule for the January 2009 Regents Examination period (DET 504). Also included, only for those schools that do not have a preapproved ongoing examination storage location, is the Examination Storage Plan (DET 599).

The information provided on the School Data Sheet and the steps that a school must follow to obtain a user name and password for the online request system will vary by school as indicated below:

- **Principals of New York City Public Schools.** If you are a public school principal in New York City, your user name and password must be obtained from your Assessment Implementation Director (AID) at your Integrated Service Center.
- **Principals of public schools located outside of New York City.** If you were the principal of a public school outside New York City for the 2007-08 school year and submitted your school's examination requests, the expectation is that you know your user name and password. The School Data Sheet will no longer provide this information. If you do not remember your user name and password, you must contact your School Superintendent or Delegated Administrator to request new ones.

If you are the new principal of a public school located outside New York City and have not yet been identified to the Department as principal, you must notify the Department's Office of Information and Reporting Services via fax at 518-402-5361 or 474-4351 in order to identify the principal and authorize the issuance of a new user name and password. This letter must be on the school/district's letterhead stationery and must include your full name, your e-mail address, your school's BEDS code, your previous position, and, for purposes of future password confirmations, your city of birth. Once you have notified the Department, you must contact your School Superintendent or Delegated Administrator to get your user name and password.

- **Nonpublic schools.** Nonpublic schools should have received user names and temporary passwords in their BEDS Nonpublic School Data Form mailing in early September. If you have not received your user name or password, or need assistance with accessing the online examination request system, contact the State Education Department Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or seddas_help@mail.nysed.gov.

NOTE: All questions regarding user names and passwords *must* be directed to your Delegated Administrator in your local school district or the SEDDAS Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or seddas_help@mail.nysed.gov.

REQUESTING EXAMINATION MATERIALS

All regular, translated, large-type, and braille editions of examinations administered during the January 2009 Regents Examination period **must** be requested through the Department's online examination request system.

Initial online requests for January examination materials must be submitted no later than November 7. Specific directions for using the online request system are enclosed with this memorandum. Within two business days after your request has been processed, you will be sent a confirmation notice via e-mail indicating the number of examinations to be shipped to the school. **It is of utmost importance that you carefully check the confirmation notice for accuracy to ensure that the correct quantities of examination materials will be shipped to your school.**

Principals who find that they need additional materials after the November 7 submission deadline may return to the online examination request system to revise or add any supplemental quantities needed. Telephone requests will not be accepted. The Department will accept and enter on the school's behalf *only* those requests submitted by fax for examination editions or quantities that cannot, because of Department policies, be submitted online by the school (for example, alternative language editions of the Regents Competency Tests). Check all confirmation notices as soon as you receive them so supplemental requests, if needed, may be placed no later than November 26.

Administrators determining they need additional examination materials after that date will likely have to obtain them from a nearby regional center on the day of the examination.

REQUESTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATION MATERIALS

Request only those quantities of examinations actually needed for administration to students in January. *If you need sample copies of tests for review purposes, fax a request on the school's letterhead to this office at 518-474-2021; these will be shipped after the January examination period.* This procedure will reduce the number of test booklets included in the secure shipments and help to ensure the timely packing of all examination materials.

Guidelines for requesting specific materials:

- *Regular test booklets:* Request the exact quantity needed, plus no more than 5% for unanticipated increases.
- *Restricted editions:* The Regents Comprehensive Examination in French; the regular English editions of the Regents Competency Tests (RCTs) in Global Studies, Mathematics, Science, and United States History and Government; and the alternative language editions of all RCTs are available only in restricted form. Each copy of a restricted test is numbered and sealed in its own individual envelope and must be returned, whether used or unused, to the Department. The teacher dictation copies and the rating guides for the Regents Comprehensive Examination in French, and the rating guides for the RCTs in Global Studies and United States History and Government are also restricted and must be returned to the Department. Therefore, request only the EXACT number of restricted editions required. *Do not request sample copies or extra copies.* Administrators are responsible for returning to the Department all restricted examination materials shipped to their school.

- *Large-type and braille test booklets:* Large-type and braille test booklets are available for all examinations. Request the EXACT number of booklets needed for students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan) specifically requires either of these accommodations. Sample copies of past examinations in large type and braille may be obtained from the New York State Resource Center for the Visually Impaired, 2-A Richmond Avenue, Batavia, NY 14020 (585-343-5384).
- *Answer sheets:*
 - o *Regents Examinations:* Hand-scorable answer sheets are part of most test booklets. Schools may substitute other types of answer sheets. Separate answer booklets will be provided for the Regents Comprehensive Examination in French and Spanish. Essay booklets will be provided for the Regents Examinations in English, Global History and Geography, and United States History and Government.
 - o *Regents Competency Tests:* All schools will be sent answer booklets for the RCT in Writing. Separate answer sheets, which may be machine scored or hand scored using scoring overlays provided by the Department, are provided for the other RCTs. Schools may substitute other types of answer sheets. When submitting your online request, indicate on the RCT request page whether you want the Department to send the machine-scorable answer sheets for those examinations.¹
- *Teacher dictation copies, scoring keys, and teacher directions:* Sufficient quantities of these materials will be included in the examination shipment, based on the number of test booklets requested.
- *Performance test for the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science:* Sufficient quantities of the performance test materials will be included in the shipment of nonsecure materials, based on the number of test booklets requested.
- *Part One materials for the Regents Comprehensive Examinations in French and Spanish:* Sufficient quantities of *Part One: Speaking* for the modern languages will be sent to each school based on the number of test booklets requested.
- *Regents-endorsed diplomas:* These may be requested online along with the school's request for Regents Examinations and will be shipped with the nonsecure testing materials for the January 2009 examination period.
- *Braille or large-type auxiliary test materials:* Teacher directions, teacher dictation copies, scoring keys, etc., for English editions of State examinations may be requested for use by teachers with visual disabilities. These materials will be prepared only when a written request from the principal is received via fax to 518-474-2021 by October 24.

REQUESTING MATERIALS FOR CURRENT AND ELIGIBLE FORMER LIMITED-ENGLISH-PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS

On September 15, 2008, the Board of Regents approved a policy that permits schools to provide testing accommodations on New York State examinations to former LEP students for up to two years after they achieve proficiency on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Beginning this school year, the testing accommodations that may be provided to LEP students may also be provided to former LEP students who achieved the proficient level on either of the two most recent administrations of the NYSESLAT. **Therefore, during the 2008-09 school year, schools may provide these accommodations to those former LEP students who achieved the proficient level on the NYSESLAT that was administered in either spring 2007 or spring 2008.** Schools may not provide testing accommodations to former LEP students who achieved the proficient level prior to the spring 2007 NYSESLAT administration.

¹ *Answer sheets for New York City public schools:* New York City public schools will be sent the answer booklets for the RCT in Writing, but will not be sent machine-scorable answer sheets for the other RCTs. Special machine-scorable answer sheets for these tests will be provided to New York City public schools by the New York City Division of Assessment and Accountability.

Current and eligible former LEP students may take State examinations either in an alternative-language edition or in English, whichever is more appropriate to the student's reading skills. The Regents Examinations in Mathematics A, Global History and Geography, United States History and Government, Living Environment, and Physical Setting/Earth Science are available in five languages other than English: Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. Only English-language editions are provided for other Regents Examinations. All translated editions of Regents Examinations must be requested within the online request system.

The alternative-language editions of the RCTs cannot be requested via the online request system. These editions must be requested in a separate letter signed by the principal and faxed to the Department at 518-474-2021. The letter must specify the exact quantity of each test needed in each language. The RCTs in Science, Global Studies, and United States History and Government are offered in six languages other than English: Chinese (Traditional), French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The alternative-language editions of the RCT in Mathematics are available in the 29 languages listed below:

Albanian	Farsi	Hindi	Malay	Spanish
Amharic	French	Italian	Polish	Tagalog
Arabic	German	Japanese	Portuguese	Thai
Burmese	Greek	Khmer	Romanian	Turkish
Chinese (Traditional)	Haitian Creole Hebrew	Korean Lao	Russian Serbo-Croatian	Urdu Vietnamese

The translated editions of Regents Examinations offered in January 2009 are direct translations of the English editions, so current and eligible former LEP students may be permitted to use both editions simultaneously. Because the alternative-language editions of the RCTs in Mathematics, Science, Global Studies, and United States History and Government are not direct translations of the English-language editions, students *may not* be given both.

If you have any students with disabilities who are also identified by your district as current and eligible former LEP students or English language learners, please contact us at 518-474-5902 for details on how to proceed.

CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS RETAKING THE REGENTS EXAMINATION IN EARTH SCIENCE

Beginning in June 2008, schools have been administering a new version of the Earth Science Performance Test (Part D) as a component of the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science. All students taking the January 2009 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science, including those retaking the written examination, must re-take the performance test. Scores earned on the Earth Science Performance Test in conjunction with prior administrations of this written examination may no longer be carried forward and applied to the student's final examination score for this Regents Examination.

All students taking future administrations — August, January, and June — of the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science must take the performance test each time they take the written examination. Only the performance test score earned by the student in the weeks immediately preceding the written examination may be used to determine the student's final examination score for this Regents Examination. This change in procedure with respect to students retaking this examination will ensure that every student's examination score is based on the full composite of the student's demonstration of knowledge, skills, and abilities at the time the written test is taken.

Consequently, all schools planning to administer the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science must make arrangements for all students who will be taking the written examination to take the new performance test as well. The performance test must be administered during the last two weeks of the Earth Science course and no later than the day before the written examination. This requirement applies both to students enrolled in the course of study and to students who plan only to retake the examination. All schools administering this examination must notify students of the date and time to appear for the performance test.

SHIPPING OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS

Examination materials may be delivered in up to five separate shipments; approximate delivery dates are indicated on the following list. These delivery dates are contingent upon submission of your school's online request by the November 7 deadline.

- *Mid-November*: Materials for Part One of the Comprehensive Regents Examinations in French and Spanish
- *Early January*: Nonsecure testing materials, including the Regents-endorsed diplomas, the Earth Science performance tests, and nonsecure materials for the examinations requested for your school
- *Just prior to the examination dates*: Locked Regents boxes containing the secure examination materials

EXAMINATION STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Every principal requesting State examinations must provide any information or affirmations required on the online request system. Your agreement to the security pledge on the first screen indicates that you understand and agree to comply with the examination security requirements described in this memorandum and in the *School Administrator's Manual*.

Secure examination materials must be stored in locked Regents boxes, which must in turn be stored in a Department-approved safe or walk-in vault that meets *all* of the specifications listed below. Newly constructed vaults, existing vaults that have been modified, or newly purchased safes must be inspected by a Department representative and approved by the Department before secure materials may be stored in any such facility. Approval of such a storage facility is contingent upon its having met *all* of the criteria outlined below. If your school's safe or vault has not been approved (that is, with a secure status code other than "1" indicated on the School Data Sheet), but you believe it meets the criteria outlined below, please contact the Office of State Assessment by fax (518-474-1989) to arrange for an inspection.

WALK-IN VAULTS must have all of the following:

- poured concrete floor
- no windows or access panels
- walls of reinforced cement block or concrete, sealed to a poured concrete floor below and structural floor or roof deck above
- metal door in a metal frame with interior or welded-pin hinges
- built-in dead-latch (deadbolt) combination or key lock that allows exiting at all times

SAFES must meet or exceed Underwriters Laboratories (UL) TRTL-30 performance standards for burglary resistance, and must have:

- steel door at least 1½" thick
- steel walls at least 1" thick
- 750 lbs. minimum weight
- built-in combination lock
- sufficient capacity to store the Regents boxes for the school's typical examination request (minimum acceptable unobstructed inside dimensions: 11"×20"×27")

The principal of a school building that does not have a Department-approved safe or vault must arrange to store Regents boxes containing secure examination materials in an approved safe or vault in another school, school district building, or BOCES building. Principals experiencing difficulty making arrangements for secure storage of examination materials should notify this office at 518-474-8220.

Principals must inform all school building personnel permitted to accept delivery of Regents boxes, either during or after school hours, of the procedures for safeguarding secure examination shipments. Access to any safe or vault where locked Regents boxes are stored must be restricted so as to prohibit entry by students and other unauthorized persons. The locked Regents boxes must be visually inspected daily by the person in charge of the examinations to ensure that they have remained secure.

The vast majority of schools administering secondary examinations have found it convenient to establish, with only a single round of correspondence, an “ongoing” storage plan. Such a plan continues from one academic year to the next, unless and until a school’s principal notifies us of the need for change. Please review the “School Information” page on the online examination request system to determine whether your school must submit a new Examination Storage Plan (DET 599) for the January 2009 Regents Examination period. If a new storage plan is required, please help us simplify your paper flow and ours by initiating an ongoing storage plan. To amend the storage information for your school, you must send a fax to 518-474-2021 with the school name and address where you have arranged for the examinations to be securely stored. This office will then request written verification of the storage arrangements from the person in charge of your proposed “host” storage location before secure examination materials can be shipped to that address.

Enclosures