



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Standards, Assessment and Reporting

January 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Commissioner's Advisory Council of Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Intermediate and Secondary-level Public, Nonpublic, and Charter Schools

FROM: David Abrams 

SUBJECT: June and August 2009 Regents Examination Schedules

The Department's primary consideration in developing the June and August 2009 Regents Examination Schedules was to create a schedule as conducive as possible to student achievement. The feedback we have received from our colleagues has helped the Department meet this goal to the greatest extent possible.

Based upon input from stakeholders, combined with statistical analysis of test-taking patterns and the time necessary for test scoring, the following changes were made to this year's June and/or August test schedules:

- Separating all writing intensive examinations (English language arts (ELA) and social studies) to minimize possible test overlaps for English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities (SWDs);
- Placing the new Geometry Regents examination as the first examination administered to facilitate timely scoring so the Department can conduct standard-setting and post the conversion chart on its web site by the Rating Day, Thursday, June 25; and
- Adding an additional testing session to the August examination period to offset overlap demands for ELLs and SWDs.

Please note that an additional scheduling option is available for any high school student whose Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Accommodation Plan requires extended time as a testing accommodation and who is scheduled to take a Regents Competency Examination (RCT) on the same day as another State examination. To address this concern, the school may reschedule an RCT to the next available school day during the same test administration period on which this student has no other State examinations scheduled. This option is not permitted for Regents Examinations. The administration of all Regents Examinations must occur on the date indicated on the official schedule distributed by the Office of State Assessment.

Please refer to the memorandum *A New Scheduling Option Available to Schools Administering State Examinations to High School Students with Disabilities - Effective January 2004* for detailed instructions that schools must strictly observe to reschedule an RCT to the next available school day. This memorandum may be accessed at:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/rct1003.htm>

Thank you for your help and for all the work you do on behalf of the students of New York State.