

Mandated Services Aid Reimbursement for 2020-21 School Year Services: Special Instructions to address COVID-19 Impact on Testing

This document outlines the standards (parameters) that will be utilized to address COVID-19 as it relates to the 2020-21 Mandated Services Aid (MSA)/Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) nonpublic school reimbursement. The New York State Education Department and the Division of Budget have approved a hold-harmless provision for the 2020-21 school/claim year. This document describes how that provision will be implemented.

MSA Claiming Guidance

Hourly Compensation Rate:

- The number of hours and days must include both remote and in-person instruction, and any significant year-to-year increase in the hourly rate will be held for review by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).
- Nonpublic schools will utilize the number of hours and days (Standard Workday or Actual hours of employees are varied) in the 2020-21 school year for their average hourly calculations.
- Nonpublic schools will utilize 2020-21 school year salary and fringe costs.
- The hourly compensation rate will be calculated using 2020-21 salary/fringe costs and 2020-21 hours/days for all applicable mandates.

Claiming Parameters:

Reimbursement for all mandates performed during the 2020-21 school year will be calculated using the same parameters/time and effort standards that were in place for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school year costs (i.e., none of the parameters/time and effort standards will change).

Hold-Harmless for Regents Exam Cancellations:

The following Regents exams were cancelled and granted exemption status and will be held-harmless in 2020-21:

- August 2020 Regents (Mandate 4)
- January 2021 Regents (Mandate 4)
- June 2021 Regents (Mandate 4). Schools had the option to opt out of the four Regents exams that were administered in June 2021. Nonpublic schools that opt out were granted exemption status.

Please note: NYSED administered only the following Regents Examinations in 2020-21:

- Algebra I
- Earth Science (written test only)
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Living Environment

For Regents exams that were cancelled and granted exemption status, a hold-harmless will be provided for reimbursement based on the number of students that completed the required coursework and were eligible to sit for the exam.

For the four Regents exams that were not cancelled and granted exemption status, nonpublic schools that administered these exams will be reimbursed based upon the reporting of those grades into NYSED's database, which will be populated in the system. NYSED will provide a hold-harmless in cases where a school opted out of providing the exams due to health and safety concerns and in cases where the school administered the exam, but some students opted not to sit for the exams because they were remote and/or due to health and safety concerns. In cases where a school chose not to administer the exam due to health and safety concerns, a hold-harmless will be provided for reimbursement based on the number of students that completed the required coursework and were eligible to sit for the exam. In cases where the school administered the exam, but some students chose not to sit for the exam, the hold-harmless will be based on the number of students who sat for the exam plus the number of eligible students who opted out because they were remote and/or for health and safety concerns.

As part of hold harmless, NYSED will also reimburse costs for workshops, supplies/materials, testing kits, printing, shipping, travel to test storage site (TSS), RIC test scoring and scanning costs.

Nonpublic schools are directed to enter the Staff (teacher, administrator, support) that would have proctored the exams into the Mandated Services Aid system. Nonpublic schools were required to enter NYSED's database the students (including remote instruction) who were eligible and scheduled to take the August 2020, January 2021, and June 2021 Regents exams in a special category called "exempt". The MSA system will have the data related to the 2020-21 Regents "exempt" exams already populated in the system.

Hold-Harmless for Non-Regents Exams:

NYSED will provide reimbursement for the following mandates based on the number of exams that were administered. NYSED will provide a hold-harmless in cases where a school opted out of providing the exams due to health and safety concerns and in cases where the school administered the exam, but some students opted not to sit for the exams because they were remote and/or due to health and safety concerns. In cases where a school chose not to administer the exam due to health and safety concerns, a hold-harmless will be provided for reimbursement based on the number of students that completed the required coursework and were thus eligible to sit for the exam. In cases where the school administered the exam, but some students chose not to sit for the exam, the hold-harmless will be based on the number of students who sat for the exam plus the number of eligible students who opted out because they were remote and/or for health and safety concerns. These exams include:

- Mandate 2: Elementary and Intermediate Assessments in English Language Arts and Math (EIA) (Grade 3-8 exams)
- Mandate 11: Grade Four Science Test (GFST)
- Mandate 12: Travel to Storage Sites (TSS)

- Mandate 14: Grade Eight Science Test (GEST)
- Mandate 18: New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) and New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL)
- Mandate 19 RIC/Scoring Center Costs

As part of hold-harmless, NYSED will also reimburse costs for workshops, supplies/materials, testing kits, printing, shipping, travel to test storage site (TSS), RIC test scoring and scanning costs.