



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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April 30, 2020

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools

**FROM:** Shannon L. Tahoe, Interim Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Cancellation of the August 2020 Administration of the New York State (NYS) High School Regents Examination Program in Response to COVID-19 Related School and District Closures

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) is cancelling the August 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program in response to the extended statewide closures of schools and districts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This cancellation applies to all Regents Examinations that had been scheduled for the August 2020 Regents Examination period.

This situation has been ongoing such that schools have now been closed statewide for an extended period. There is much uncertainty as to when regular in-school attendance and instruction will be able to resume throughout the State and whether students will be adequately prepared to take Regents Examinations. It is most important that during the time of closure, educators be able to continue to focus their efforts toward local school and community needs and not have to be concerned about preparing students for State assessments.

On April 7, the Department [announced the cancellation of the June 2020 Regents Exams](#). At that time the Department advised, “Any student who enrolls in summer school to make up failed course credit in a course leading to a Regents Examination and is subsequently granted such credit, shall be exempt from the culminating Regents Examination.” More information concerning the modifications to the assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements may be found in the [guidance documents](#) provided with the announcement of the cancellation of the June 2020 Regents Examinations. These documents include a list of frequently asked questions that continues to be updated regularly on NYSED’s [COVID-19 Information site](#).

Any questions about the exemptions from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov).

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Please continue to monitor NYSED's [COVID-19 Information site](#) for additional guidance as it becomes available.