

**SAFETY NET OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
TO GRADUATE WITH A LOCAL DIPLOMA (February 2017)**

| Safety Net Option | Available to | Requirements | Diploma Type |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| 55-64 Low Pass Safety Net Option | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with disabilities with a current individualized education program (IEP) Students with a Section 504 accommodation plan, if documented on the plan Students declassified from special education while in grades 8-12, if recommended and documented by the committee on special education (CSE) | <p>The Low Pass Safety Net Option allows a student with a disability to meet the testing requirements for a local diploma by achieving a score between 55 and 64 on one or more of the required Regents examinations (i.e., English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies (i.e., United States history and government and/or global history and geography)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Regents examinations (e.g., State Education Department (NYSED)-approved alternative assessments or Regents Competency Tests (RCTs)) are not subject to the Low Pass Rate Safety Net Option. A student with a disability who makes use of the Low Pass Safety Net Option may also use the Compensatory Safety Net Option or, if eligible, the RCT Safety Net Option to meet graduation requirements for a local diploma. | Local Diploma |
| 55-64 Low Pass Safety Net Option with Appeal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with disabilities with a current IEP Students with a Section 504 accommodation plan, if documented on the plan Students declassified while in grades 8-12, if recommended and documented by the CSE | <p>The Low Pass Safety Net Option with Appeal allows a student with a disability who has taken and passed a course in preparation to take a Regents examination, has a 65 course average, and scores between 52-54 on up to two Regents examinations¹, to appeal to graduate with a local diploma using this lower score. An appeal may be initiated by a student or by the student's parent/guardian or teacher and must be submitted to the student's school principal. Through this appeal, the student seeks a waiver of the graduation assessment requirement in the subject area under appeal. Approval of the appeal will not change the student's score on the Regents examination under appeal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible to appeal a score of 52-54, a student with a disability must meet all other conditions of appeal as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have taken the Regents examination under appeal at least two times; | Local Diploma |

¹ All students, including students with disabilities, who score between 60-64 on up to two Regents examinations may appeal to graduate with a local or Regents diploma using this lower score. Students who are granted one appeal of a score between 60-64 from their local school district earn a Regents diploma. Students who are granted two appeals of a score between 60-64 earn a local diploma (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreg/CurrentAppealForm.pdf>).

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| 55-64 Low Pass Safety Net Option with Appeal (cont.) | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Have at least one score on the Regents examination under appeal within the 52-54 score band; 3. Present evidence that the student has taken advantage of academic help provided by the school in the subject tested by the Regents examination under appeal; 4. Have a course average in the subject under appeal that meets or exceeds the required passing grade by the school (as evidenced in the official transcript that records grades achieved by the student); and 5. Be recommended for an exemption to the graduation requirement by the student's teacher or Department chairperson in the subject of the Regents examination under appeal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision to grant or deny an appeal is made at the district level and is <u>not</u> subject to State Education Department approval. • Non-Regents examinations are not subject to the appeals process. • A student with a disability who makes use of the Low Pass Safety Net Option with Appeal may also use the Compensatory Safety Net Option to meet graduation requirements for a local diploma. <p>Resources:</p> <p>Additional information on the appeal process for students with disabilities may be found at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreg/CurrentAppealForm.pdf.</p> <p>Additional information on the Low Pass Safety Net Option with Appeal is available at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/appeal-of-scores-for-safety-net-localdiploma.html.</p> <p>Questions related to the appeals process should be directed to the New York State Education Department's Office of Curriculum and Instruction by e-mail at: emscurric@nysed.gov or phone at 518-474-5922.</p> | Local Diploma |

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| <p>Compensatory Safety Net Option</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with disabilities with a current IEP • Students with a Section 504 accommodation plan, if documented on the plan • Students declassified while in grades 8-12, if recommended and documented by the CSE | <p>The Compensatory Safety Net Option allows a student with a disability who scores between 45-54 on one or more of the required Regents examinations (except for ELA or mathematics) to compensate the low score with a score of 65 or higher on another required Regents examination to graduate with a local diploma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be eligible for the Compensatory Safety Net Option, a student with a disability must meet all conditions as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain a score of at least 55 (or an approved appeal of 52-54) on both the ELA and mathematics Regents examinations. 2. Obtain a passing grade that meets or exceeds the required passing grade by the school for the course in the subject area of the Regents examination in which he or she received a score of 45-54. 3. Have a satisfactory attendance rate, in accordance with the district's or school's attendance policy, for the school year during which the student took the examination in which he or she received a score of 45-54, exclusive of excused absences. • A score of 65 or higher on a single examination may not be used to compensate for more than one examination for which a score of 45-54 is earned. • A student with a disability who makes use of the Compensatory Safety Net Option may also use the Low Pass Appeal Option (i.e., appeal scores of 52-54) to meet graduation requirements for a local diploma. • A student with a disability may not use the Compensatory Safety Net Option if he or she is using a passing score on one or more RCTs to graduate with a local diploma. <p>Resources:</p> <p>Additional information on the Compensatory Safety Net Option is available in the November 2012 Special Education Field Advisory and Questions and Answers: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/safetynet-compensatoryoption.html and http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/safetynet-qa.htm.</p> | <p>Local Diploma</p> |

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| <p>Superintendent Determination Option</p> | <p>Students with disabilities with a current IEP (Does NOT INCLUDE students with a Section 504 accommodation plan or declassified students)</p> | <p>The Superintendent Determination Option allows a superintendent (or the principal/head of school of a registered nonpublic school or charter school, as applicable) to make a local determination that a student with a disability has otherwise met the standards for graduation with a local high school diploma when such student has not been successful, because of his/her disability, at demonstrating his/her proficiency on one or more of the Regents examinations required for graduation (excluding the ELA or mathematics Regents examinations). The superintendent may <u>only</u> consider an eligible student for a local diploma through the Superintendent Determination Option upon receipt of a written request from the student's parent or guardian to the student's school principal or CSE chairperson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be eligible to for the Superintendent Determination Option, a student with a disability must meet all conditions as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The parent/guardian submitted a written request that their child be considered for a superintendent determination; 2. The student has a current IEP and is receiving special education programs and/or related services; 3. The student did not meet the graduation requirements through the low pass (55-64) safety net option or the compensatory option [section 100.5(b)(7)(vi)(c) or section 100.5(d)(7)]; 4. The student has earned the required course credits and has passed, in accordance with district policy, all courses required for graduation, including the Regents courses to prepare for the corresponding required Regents examination areas (ELA, mathematics, social studies, and science); 5. The student has earned a minimum score of 55 on both the Regents ELA and mathematics examinations or a successful appeal of a score between 52 and 54; 6. The student has participated in other Regents examinations (science and social studies), but has not passed one or more of these examinations as required for graduation [section 100.5(a)(5)]; and 7. The student has otherwise demonstrated competency in the subject area where the student was not able to demonstrate his/her proficiency of the State's learning standards through the Regents examination. | <p>Local Diploma</p> |

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| Superintendent Determination Option (cont.) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In making the determination, the superintendent, in consultation with the principal, must review, document and provide a written certification/assurance that there is evidence that the student has otherwise met the standards for graduation with a local high school diploma. • The student and the parent of the student must receive written notice of the determination with a copy of the completed Superintendent Determination of Graduation with a Local Diploma (Updated February 2017) form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Where the superintendent determines that the student has met the requirements for graduation, the district must provide prior written notice that the student is not eligible to receive a free appropriate public education after graduation with a local diploma. ➤ Where the superintendent determines that the student has not met the requirements for graduation, the written notice shall inform the student and his/her parent that the student has the right to attend school until receipt of a local or Regents diploma or until the end of the school year in which the student turns age 21, whichever shall occur first. <p>Resources:</p> <p>Additional information regarding the superintendent determination option including Questions and Answers, a “Parent Request for Superintendent Determination of Graduation with a Local Diploma (Sample)” and the “Superintendent Determination of Graduation with a Local Diploma (Updated February 2017)” form are available at http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/gradrequirements/home.html.</p> | Local Diploma |

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| Regents Competency Test (RCT) Safety Net Option | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with disabilities with a current IEP • Students with a Section 504 accommodation plan, if documented on the plan • Students declassified while in grades 8-12, if recommended and documented by the CSE <p>Note: This only applies to the above students who first entered grade 9 prior to the 2011-12 school year.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCT Safety Net Option allows students with disabilities who fail one or more of the required Regents examinations (i.e., ELA, mathematics, science, global history and United States history) to meet the testing requirements for the local diploma by passing the corresponding RCT(s) in that subject area. • A student must take the required Regents examination but may take the RCT before or after the Regents examination. • The RCTs are available to students who entered grade nine prior to September 2011 until they graduate or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21. • A student with a disability may not use the Compensatory Safety Net Option or the Superintendent Determination Option if the student is using a passing score on one or more RCTs to graduate with a local diploma. <p>Resources:</p> <p>Additional information on the RCT Safety Net Option is available in the January 2010 Special Education Field Advisory: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/extRCTsafetynet.htm</p> | Local Diploma |