

# The New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential

## Key information for Parents

### *What is the CDOS Commencement Credential?*

The **CDOS Commencement Credential** can be awarded, upon graduation from high school, to a student who has entry-level work readiness skills.

The CDOS Commencement Credential can be earned by students with disabilities **with** a regular high school diploma or as their only high school exiting credential for those who did not earn a local or Regents diploma.

- The CDOS Commencement Credential is **not** a local or Regents high school diploma.
- The CDOS Commencement Credential means the student has met the high school learning standards necessary for work success.



### *What will the student need to do to earn the CDOS Commencement Credential?*

**There are two ways to earn the CDOS Commencement Credential**

#### **Option I**

➤ **Complete a Career Plan.**

A Career Plan includes information about a student's strengths, career interests and goals and a plan to reach those goals.

➤ **Complete Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coursework and/or Work-based Learning.**

A student must complete **216 hours** of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning experiences in school, business or community settings to earn this credential. (At least 54 of the 216 hours must be completed through work-based learning).

➤ **Achieve the CDOS learning standards at the high school commencement level.** These standards include:

- ✓ Exploring career options;
- ✓ Using academic skills (like math) in work settings; and
- ✓ Skills important for job success, such as speaking with a boss, teamwork, self-advocacy, organization, and problem solving.

(See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/cdlearn/documents/cdoslea.pdf> )

➤ **Have an Employability Profile** that rates the student's skills demonstrated in work-based learning activities.

#### **Option II**

Pass one of the nationally recognized work-readiness assessments.

See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/CDOScredential-att5.pdf>

## How will the NYS CDOS Commencement Credential benefit the student?

Preparation for the CDOS Commencement Credential will benefit the student by providing him/her with:

- ❖ Career planning and exploration through work-based learning experiences;
- ❖ Career related courses;
- ❖ Opportunities to practice skills learned in the classroom in work-based settings;
- ❖ Opportunities to learn what employers expect of employees;
- ❖ Potential future employment contacts in the community; and
- ❖ A Board of Regents endorsed credential that recognizes the student's readiness for entry-level employment.

## For more information

Contact

- ✓ Your school district
- ✓ New York State Education Department  
[CDOScomment@nysed.gov](mailto:CDOScomment@nysed.gov) or (518) 473-2878
- ✓ Regional Transition Specialists  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/rs-etasc/tslist.htm>
- ✓ Parent Centers  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm>

See Graduation Requirements

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/gradrequirements/home.html>



## What should you discuss with the school?

- When and how will the student complete his/her career plan?
- If needed, who will assist the student to complete a plan aligned with his/her strengths and needs?
- Based on the student's career goals, how will the school select courses and work-based learning activities needed by the student?
- When in the student's four or more years of high school will he/she take these courses and participate in the work-based learning?
- How will the school ensure that the student is taking courses to ensure he/she is working to graduate with a regular high school diploma?
- How will I be kept informed of my son or daughters progress toward the CDOS learning standards?



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