




ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration

June 2011

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Principals of Public, Nonpublic, and Charter Schools

From: David Abrams 

Subject: Changes in Assessments beginning in the 2011-12 School Year

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you about changes to the New York State Testing Program, beginning in the 2011-12 school year. We appreciate all the work you do implement the New York State Testing Program.

At its May 2011 meeting, the Board of Regents discussed the continued structural imbalance between our available resources and the cost of administering the Regents Exam program. In order to cover an \$8 million funding gap, the Board voted to enact the following cost containment measures to reduce the costs of exam:

- Elimination of the January Administration of all Regents Exams and RCTs
- Postponement of the development of exams in ELA 9 and ELA 10
- Continuation of the elimination of Grades 5 and 8 Social Studies tests (eliminated in 2010-11)
- Elimination of Regents Exams in Italian, French, and Spanish

We have already had many inquiries regarding the elimination of exams in Languages other than English (LOTE). The Department will continue to require that students complete at least two units of study in LOTE at some time during the grades kindergarten through nine. In addition, we encourage high school students to pursue a sequence in LOTE in order to earn a Regents diploma with advanced designation. In December 2010, the Board approved amendments to CR 100.5(b)(7), allowing students to meet the assessment requirement in those languages for which no Regents exam is available by passing a locally developed exam aligned to the Checkpoint B learning standards for LOTE. These regulations can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1005.html#regentsAD>.

We understand that many of these cuts may cause difficulties for students and educators across the state. We will continue to work together to ensure that students continue to have access to exams that they need. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration by e-mail at EMSCASSESSINFO@mail.nysed.gov or by phone at (518) 474-5900. Thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of the students of New York State.