



April 8, 2020

Dear ALH Staff, Students, and Families:

On Monday this week, Governor Cuomo announced that he is again extending the Executive Order closing schools until April 29th. As a reminder, during this time, there are no on-site classes or school activities, and the building is closed to students and visitors. All classes and instruction via distance learning will continue throughout the closure, including during the previously planned spring break.

Subsequently, the State Education Department also officially announced yesterday the cancellation of the June 2020 administration of Regents Exams and released guidance on modifications to requirements for students to graduate and earn their high school diplomas, credentials and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations. Additional relevant guidance specific to diploma types and graduation requirements is shared below, along with links to the NYSED website where updates and answers to frequently asked questions will be posted on an ongoing basis. Please also feel free to reach out to our school counselors, who can provide information specific to our students and individual scenarios.

Please continue to check our website regularly at www.albanyleadershiphigh.org and social media for regular updates and for access to resources for students and families regarding distance learning, family engagement, social-emotional supports, health and safety, and community resources.

For important information and updates regarding COVID-19, you may access guidance from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/>), the NYSDOH (<https://www.health.ny.gov/>), or you may call 1-888-364-3065 for the Coronavirus Hotline.

Thank you again to our entire ALH Community for your dedication, support, and continuing efforts. Keep the selfies and encouraging messages coming! We love seeing and hearing from you! Be safe and be well. #ALH strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cariña D. Cook".

Cariña D. Cook
Principal/CEO



REGENTS EXAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements are exempt from Regents Examinations they were planning to take in June 2020:

- The student is currently enrolled in the course of study culminating in a Regents Exam and by the scheduled date of the June 2020 Regents Examination will have earned credit in such course of study;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, and has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework;
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents Exam but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score. (See FAQ #5 for more information).

Also, in order for a student to be exempt from a June 2020 Regents examination, the student must have earned a unit of credit in the course. If a student fails a course leading to a Regents examination and enrolls in a summer school make up program in summer 2020 and subsequently earns diploma credit, the student can be considered exempt from the culminating Regents Exam.

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass such specific examinations to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents with advanced designation). For example, a student that was enrolled in ELA 11 and was scheduled to take the examination in June 2020, does not need to meet the ELA assessment requirement for a local, Regents, or Advanced Regents diploma.

Students will not need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be exempted from a science Regents Exam. Hands on laboratory experiences missed because of extended school closure or student absence due to COVID-19 does not preclude a student from being exempt for the corresponding Science Regents Examination.

A district may exempt students from the locally developed Checkpoint B Language Other Than English examination if the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the



subject by the end of the 2019-20 school year in order for students to meet the requirements of the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

Schools/districts shall provide opportunities for students to attempt Regents exams in subsequent administration periods, if students so choose. If the student's educational entitlement has ended, please refer to question 35 (post-graduation section).

EARNING COURSE CREDIT

Any student who achieves the learning outcomes for a course of study should earn the applicable course/diploma credit without regard to the 180-minute/week unit of study requirement in Commissioner's Regulations Part 100.1.

Students cannot earn credit by examination using the exemptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

AP EXAMINATIONS

The College Board plans to offer an online exam that students can complete at home. If students need mobile tools and/or connectivity to review AP content and to take the exam, they can reach out directly to the College Board to Request Student Access to Remote AP Learning and Assessments. Additional information on the administration of AP exams can be referenced on the College Board's website.

ADVANCED DESIGNATION

Any students who have Regents Exams exempted due to the cancellation of the June 2020 examination administration are not required to pass such Regents exams necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Example: A student is scheduled to take the Algebra II Regents examination and the ELA Regents examination in June 2020. S/he have passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. Such student will not be required to pass ELA and Algebra II but will still earn the Regents with Advanced Designation diploma.

The school or district may grant an exemption to the LOTE checkpoint B examination requirement for any student scheduled to take such examination in June 2020 in order to meet the requirements for an advanced diploma as long as the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject prior to the end of the school year.

While no actual score would be given, students who are exempted from a math and/or a science Regents examination, and pass at least two additional Regents exams in math



with scores of 85 or above or 2 additional Regents Exams in Science with an 85 or above would be entitled to a mastery in math and/or science on their diploma.

Example 1: A student has taken Algebra I and earned a 90, Geometry and earned an 87 and received an exemption to the Algebra II Regents Exam. This student has 2 exams with an 85 or above and a third exam exemption and would qualify for a mastery in mathematics.

Example 2: A senior was enrolled in physics and has successfully earned course credit. She received a Regents exam exemption. She earned a 90 on her Living Environment Regents exam, a 96 on her Earth Science Regents exam, and an 84 on her Chemistry Regents exam. Since this senior had two science Regents exam scores above 85 and the physics exam score waived, she is deemed to have met the requirements for the mastery endorsement.

Example 3: A student has passed the Algebra 1 Regents examination with an 85 and is now enrolled in Geometry and will be exempt from the examination in June 2020. This student will go on to Algebra II in the next school year. If she earns an 85 or above on Algebra II, she will have 2 exams in math with an 85 or better and 1 exemption and will be entitled to the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement when she graduates.

While exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for any diploma type, they would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement. Thus, students can earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions.

For example, a student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following exam scores:

- ☐ English Regents, 89
- ☐ Algebra I Regents, 92
- ☐ Living Environment Regents, 90
- ☐ US History Regents, waived (COVID-19 Exam exemption)
- ☐ Earth Science Regents, 89 (+1 pathway)

Since the average of the Regents exam scores required for the diploma type (not including the waived exam) equals 90, the student is entitled to the honors endorsement.

Also, exempted exams are simply removed from the calculation for the honors endorsement. Students may still use a maximum of two Department-approved alternatives. The department will issue separate guidance and a full set of FAQs to address flexibility in earning the Bi-Literacy seal.



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES / ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

If a student with a disability or English Language Learner has access to safety nets or appeals leading to a local diploma, all waived exams for all students should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma determinations. However, no score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

Students with a disability have access to the compensatory safety net option where a 65 or above on one exam can compensate for a 45-54 on another exam. An exempted Regents Exam cannot be used to compensate a lower Regents exam score using the compensatory safety net option.

RECORDING STUDENTS SCORES

Student transcripts should not reflect a score for any examination where the student is granted an exemption. NYSED will develop and disseminate guidance on how schools/districts should record the exemptions from examination requirements in their student management systems. The Department will develop new codes for reporting "COVID-19 Exemptions" and provide further guidance.

POST-GRADUATION OR EXITING HIGH SCHOOL

Under current regulations, when a student(s) takes and passes a Regents exam but does not earn a High School diploma and then decides to obtain his/her High School equivalency diploma, they are exempt from the corresponding subject sub-test of the Test Assessment of Secondary Completion (TASC) exam. The Department will treat such students in the same way as any other student. Those students who produce a transcript showing that they were exempt from one or more Regents exams, will also be exempt from that section (sub-test) of the TASC. As with all students, those seeking their High School equivalency will always have to take and pass at least one sub-test of the TASC, regardless of the number of Regents exams they are given credit for.

All students are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) until either they receive a local or Regents Diploma, or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years of age.

ACCOUNTABILITY

NYSED will not make high school accountability determinations for the 2019-20 school year based on the performance of the 2016 accountability cohort (i.e., the students who first



entered grade 9 in September 2016). Instead all schools and districts will maintain in the 2020-21 school year the same accountability status that the school or district was assigned for the 2019-20 school year.

NYSED will work with the United States Department of Education to determine a methodology for meeting federal accountability requirements and making accountability determinations beginning with the 2017 accountability cohort (i.e., students who first entered grade 9 anytime between and including July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018). More information on this issue will be forthcoming.

[Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure](#)

[NYSED COVID-19 Information Website](#)

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.



Standing Reminders:

Breakfast and Lunch for Students

Grab-and-go lunch and breakfast program offered daily and is available to everyone under the age of 18.

Lunch for the current day and breakfast for the following day is available for pick up throughout the closure from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Signage is posted, directing students and families to the location where meals can be picked up, and ALH staff are available for assistance, if needed.

Instructional Resources for Students

Distance Learning for all classes started on Thursday, March 19th. All classes for all students are continuing via Google Classroom and Google Meet throughout the school closure.

All students should have received invites and access codes for their classes through their ALH Gmail for Google Classroom. If you are experiencing any difficulty whatsoever in accessing all Google Classrooms, please reach out to your teachers directly, or contact the ALH main number for assistance at (518) 694-5300.

Chromebooks are available for sign-out and pick up by appointment. If you are in need of a Chromebook, please call the ALH main number.

Free WiFi Access

Spectrum is offering free Internet access to Capital Region households due to the COVID-19 outbreak and school closures. The 60-day offer is available to households that are not already Spectrum customers.

Call 844-488-8395 to enroll and for more information.

Spring Athletics

All scrimmages and contests are canceled through April 30th.