

Harold J. Dean, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Philip E. Kenter, Ed.D.
School Business Administrator

Robert J. Scappatore
Principal

Michael C. Gordon
Assistant Principal / Director of Special Education



2460 North Wading River Road
Wading River, New York 11792
Tel (631) 929-4300
Fax (631) 929-0303

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March 22, 2021

NYSED ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-2021

Greetings Little Flower Parents and Guardians,

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently released information regarding testing requirements for this spring and summer in response to the current pandemic conditions.

While NYSED has applied to the United States Department of Education (USDE) for a waiver to cancel all testing and decouple all scores from student, teacher, and school/district accountability. However, since a USDE determination to that waiver request may not be made prior to the scheduled administration periods, schools must prepare for said administrations which are federally required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Grades 3-8 Testing

The testing period for the 3-8 exams are as follows:

Grades 3-8 ELA:	April 19 – April 29, 2021
Grades 3-9 Math:	May 3 – May 14, 2021
Grades 4 and 8 Science:	June 7 – 9, 2021

The NYS Board of Regents has adopted several emergency regulations which will ease the burden of testing on both students and schools:

- Testing has been reduced from two days to one day;
- Only Section 1 (multiple choice) is required to be administered;
- Schools may use the entire testing window to administer the exams, including offering the exam to smaller groups on different days to accommodate differences in instructional modalities; and
- Scores will be decoupled from any student placement or school/district designation outcomes and will only be used internally.

Regents Exams

Part of the Board of Regents' emergency regulations includes ONLY offering the four Regents exams required under ESSA, which include:

ELA:	June 17, 2021
Living Environment:	June 22, 2021

Algebra I:	June 23, 2021
Earth Science:	June 24, 2021

Additional emergency regulations include the following:

- All other Regents exams scheduled for June are cancelled;
- All Regents exams scheduled for August are cancelled;
- Students are eligible for Regents exam exemptions related to diploma requirements should they meet one of the following conditions:
 - be currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and earn credit in such course of study by June 2021 or August 2021;
 - be in grade 7 or grade 8, enrolled in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, and meet the learning outcomes for such course of study by June 2021 or August 2021;
 - successfully complete a make-up program by August 2021 in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination; or
 - previously achieved course credit in a course of study leading to a Regents Examination, has not yet passed the associated Regents, but intended to take the test in June or August 2021 to achieve a passing score;
- Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential requirements may be exempted granted attainment of CDOS learning standards, and:
 - for the purpose of meeting the CDOS +1 Pathway to a diploma;
 - as their only exiting credential, provided the student:
 - has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere; or
 - has reached the end of the school year in which they attain the age of 21; or
 - for students with disabilities, for the purpose of meeting the English language arts and/or Mathematics Regents Examination eligibility conditions for the Superintendent’s Determination option.

The guidance department will send all parents/guardians of students who are scheduled to take any Regents exam a student-specific letter outlining the exams and exemptions your child is scheduled for this June, as well as notice of your authority to waive those exemptions. Additional information will be provided as made available to schools.

Should you have any questions related to the 3-8 or Regents exams, please visit one of the resources below, or contact Michelle Letizia, guidance counselor, at 631-929-4300, extension 104.

Thank you.

Resources

- <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2021/board-regents-acts-emergency-regulation-revisions-2021-diploma-requirements>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/2021/memo-june-august-2021-assessments.pdf>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/2021/faq-june-august-2021-assessments.pdf>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/schedules/2021/regents-exam-schedule-june-2021.pdf>
- <http://www.nysed.gov/memo/state-assessment/2020-21-elementary-and-intermediate-level-testing-schedule>