

AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 208, 209, 305, 308, 309 and 3204

1. A new paragraph (12) shall be added to subdivision (d) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective December 17, 2016, to read as follows:

(12) Superintendent determination pathway for certain students with disabilities for eligibility for a local diploma.

(i) For purposes of this paragraph only, superintendent shall mean the superintendent of a school district or the principal, head of school, or their equivalent, of a charter school or nonpublic school, as applicable.

(ii) School districts, registered nonpublic high schools and charter schools shall ensure that every student who is identified as a student with a disability as defined in Education Law section 4401(1) and section 200.1(zz) of this Title and who does not meet the *assessment requirements for graduation through the existing appeal options, including the compensatory score option or the 55-64 low pass safety net option* available under this section but who is otherwise eligible to graduate in June 2016 and thereafter shall be considered for a local diploma through the superintendent determination pathway in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph, provided that the student:

(a) has a current individualized education program and is receiving special education programs and/or related services pursuant to Education Law section 4402 and section 200.4 of this Title; and

(b) took the English Regents examination required for graduation pursuant to this section and achieved a minimum score of 55 or successfully appealed a score of between 52 and 54 on such examination pursuant to paragraph (7) of this subdivision; and

(c) took a mathematics Regents examination required for graduation pursuant to this section and achieved a minimum score of 55 or successfully appealed a score of between 52 and 54 on such examination pursuant to paragraph (7) of this subdivision; and

(d) participated in the remaining Regents examinations required for graduation pursuant to clauses (c), (d), (e) and (f) of subparagraph (a)(5)(i) of this section, but was unable to achieve a minimum score of 55 on one or more of the remaining assessments required for graduation or did not initiate an appeal of a score of between 52 and 54 on one or more such examinations pursuant to paragraph (7) of this subdivision, or was unable to use the compensatory score option for one or more such examinations pursuant to clause (b)(7)(vi)(c) of this section, and

(e) has earned the required course credits pursuant to this section and passed, in accordance with district policy, all courses required for graduation.

(iii) For each eligible student under this paragraph, the superintendent shall conduct a review to determine whether the student has otherwise demonstrated proficiency in the knowledge, skills and abilities in the subject area(s) where the student was not able to demonstrate his/her proficiency of the State's learning standards as measured by the corresponding Regents examination(s) and document such determination in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) the superintendent shall consider evidence that the student attained a grade for the course that meets or exceeds the required passing grade by the school for the subject area(s) under review and such grade is recorded on the student's official transcript with grades achieved by the student in each quarter of the school year. Such evidence may include, but need not be limited to, the student's final course grade, student work completed throughout the school year and/or any interim grades on homework, class work, quizzes and tests; and

(b) the superintendent shall consider the evidence that demonstrates that the student actively participated in the Regents examination(s) for the subject area(s) under review; and

(c) the superintendent shall, as soon as practicable, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, document the evidence reviewed for an eligible student with disability under this paragraph and make a determination as to whether the student met the requirements for issuance of a local diploma pursuant to this paragraph and certify that the information provided is accurate; and

(d) the superintendent shall, as soon as practicable, provide each student and parent or person in parental relation to the student with a copy of the completed form and written notification of the superintendent's determination, and place a copy of the completed form in the student's record.

(1) Where the superintendent determines that the student has not met the requirements for graduation pursuant to this paragraph, the written notice shall inform the student and parent or person in parental relation to the student 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.

(2) Where the superintendent determines that the student has met the requirements for graduation pursuant to this paragraph, the parent shall receive prior written notice pursuant to the requirements of section 200.5(a)(5)(ii) of this Title indicating that the student is not eligible to receive a free appropriate public education after graduation with the receipt of the local diploma pursuant to this paragraph; and

(e) the superintendent shall, no later than August 31 of each year, provide the commissioner with a copy of the completed form for each student; and

(f) the commissioner may conduct audits of compliance with the requirements of this paragraph.

(iv) On or after October 18, 2016, a superintendent shall only make a determination under this paragraph upon receipt of a written request from an eligible student's parent or guardian. Such request shall be submitted in writing to the student's school principal or chairperson of the district's committee on special education. A written request received by the school principal, chairperson of the district's committee on special education, or any other employee of the school as applicable, shall be forwarded to school superintendent immediately upon its receipt.

2. Clause (c) of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (7) of subdivision (d) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner is amended, effective December 17, 2016, as follows:

(c) A student who is otherwise eligible to graduate in January 2016 or thereafter, is identified as a student with a disability as defined in section 200.1(zz) of this Title, and

fails, after at least two attempts, to attain a score of 55 or above on up to two of the required Regents examinations for graduation shall be given an opportunity to appeal such score in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph for purposes of graduation with a local diploma, provided that the student:

(1) has scored within three points of a score of 55 on the required Regents examination under appeal and has attained at least a 65 course average in the subject area of the Regents examination under appeal; and

(2) has met the criteria specified in subclauses (a)(2)-(4) of this subparagraph.

[Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause, a student with a disability who makes use of the compensatory option in clause (b)(7)(vi)(c) of this section to obtain a local diploma may not also appeal a score below 55 on the English language arts or mathematics Regents examinations pursuant to this clause.]

3. Subparagraph (ix) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of section 200.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner is amended, effective December 17, 2016, as follows:

(ix) Transition services. (a) For those students beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is age 15 (and at a younger age, if determined appropriate), and updated annually, the IEP shall, under the applicable components of the student's IEP, include:

[(a)] (1) ...

[(b)] (2) ...

[(c)] (3) ...

[(d)] (4) ...

[(e)] (5) ...

(b) To ensure appropriate transition planning for the student, the development of transition goals and services pursuant to subclause (a) of this clause, shall include a discussion with the student's parents of:

(1) the graduation requirements that apply to the student depending upon the year in which he or she first enters grade nine;

(2) how the student is progressing toward receipt of a diploma including:

(i) the courses the student has passed and the number of credits the student has earned as required for graduation;

(ii) the assessments required for graduation that the student has taken and passed; and

(3) the appeal, safety net and superintendent determination pathway options that may be available to the student through section 100.5 of this Title to allow the student to meet the graduation assessment requirements.

(c) At the CSE meeting in which transition services will be discussed, the student's parents shall be provided with written information explaining the graduation requirements. Such information must include the eligibility criteria and processes for seeking an appeal to graduate with a lower score on a Regents examination and for requesting that a student be considered for a local diploma through the superintendent determination pathway pursuant to section 100.5 of this Title. Parents shall also be informed that graduation from high school with a local diploma or Regents diploma shall terminate their child's entitlement to a free public education pursuant to Education Law section 3202(1) and their eligibility for special education services pursuant to this Part.