

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 101, 207, 208, 305, 308, and 309 of the Education Law.

1. The opening paragraph of subdivision (a) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(a) General requirements for a Regents or a local high school diploma. Except as provided in clauses (5)(i)(c), (e) and (f) of this subdivision, paragraphs (d)(6), [and] (11), and (13) and subdivision (g) of this section, the following general requirements shall apply with respect to a Regents or local high school diploma. Requirements for a diploma apply to students depending upon the year in which they first enter grade nine. A student who takes more than four years to earn a diploma is subject to the requirements that apply to the year that student first entered grade nine. Students who take less than four years to complete their diploma requirements are subject to the provisions of subdivision (e) of this section relating to accelerated graduation.

2. Subclause (1) of clause (f) of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in [paragraph] paragraphs (d)(11) and (13) of this section, students who first enter grade nine in September 2011 and thereafter or who are otherwise eligible to receive a high school diploma pursuant to this section in June 2015 and thereafter must meet the requirements of clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of this subparagraph and also pass any one of the following assessments:

3. Subdivision (d) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended by adding a new paragraph (13) to read as follows:

(13) Civics pathway. Students enrolled in high school in September 2021 and thereafter or who are otherwise eligible to receive a high school diploma pursuant to this section may meet the diploma requirements described in this section by:

(i) completing the applicable credit requirements pursuant to this section;

(ii) completing the requirements for the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness as pursuant to subdivision (i) of this section; and

(iii) passing four assessments, one in each of the four subject areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies (United States History and government or global history and geography), as set forth in clauses (a)(5)(i)(a)-(e) of this section.

4. Subdivision (i) of section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is relettered subdivision (j) and a new subdivision (i) is added to read as follows:

(i) New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.

(1) Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this subdivision is to establish requirements for earning a New York State (NYS) Seal of Civic Readiness. The intent of the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness is to encourage the study of civics and civility through experiential learning; certify attainment of civic readiness; provide employers with a method of identifying high school graduates with skills in civics and civility; provide universities with an additional method to recognize applicants seeking admission; prepare students with twenty-first century skills; recognize the value of K-12 Social Studies education in schools as a means to build civic knowledge; empower students as agents of positive social change to redress historical and contemporary oppression and strengthen our diverse democracy. The NYS Seal of Civic Readiness shall be awarded

to students who meet the criteria of this subdivision and complete all criteria prescribed by the Commissioner at a New York State high school approved by the commissioner to offer the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. The NYS Seal of Civic Readiness shall be affixed to high school diplomas and transcripts of graduating pupils attaining Seal criteria. No fee shall be charged to a student pursuant to this subdivision

(2) School district requirements. School district participation in the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness program is voluntary. A school district that wishes to participate in the program shall:

(i) submit an application for approval to the commissioner, in a form and by a date prescribed by the commissioner, for the school district to participate in the program. Such application shall include a narrative that describes how the district will implement the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness program, including plans for program communications, processes pertaining to student tracking, advisement and evaluation, and timeliness and benchmarks for the program;

(ii) maintain appropriate records in order to identify students who have earned a NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. At the end of each school year in which a school district participates in the program, the school district shall submit a report to the commissioner, in a form and by a date prescribed by the commissioner, that includes the number of students receiving the Seal along with relevant data including, but not limited to the criteria chosen under subparagraph (4)(ii) and (iii) of this subdivision; and

(iii) establish and identify a NYS Seal of Civic Readiness Committee (SCRC).

(a) The SCRC shall include, but is not limited to, the following personnel:

(1) at least one Social Studies teacher;

(2) at least one School Counselor or other staff who will track student progress on earning the Seal; and

(3) at least one administrator or other staff member who will serve as the main contact with the Department in order to collect data on school offerings and submit copies of student work to the Department if requested.

(b) The SCRC shall:

(1) create a NYS Seal of Civic Readiness plan that includes, but is not limited to, details concerning, communications, student advisement, evaluation, and presentation of awards;

(2) create a master list of all available courses and extra-curricular activities pertaining to the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness program within their high school including, but not limited to dates for required benchmarks throughout the program year;

(3) develop a student tracking process, including an application process to be completed by interested students and reviewed by an advisor;

(4) review and approve potential service learning, extracurricular and work-based learning experiences, the Middle School Capstone Project if available, Civic Projects and Civics Capstone Projects in accordance with Commissioner's guidelines; and

(5) review and evaluate all coursework, assessments, and civic experiential learning completed by each student to ensure criteria for the seal are met.

(3) Student requirements.

(i) Students who wish to receive the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness shall complete all requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma.

(ii) In addition, students shall earn points, as outlined in guidance by the Commissioner, in each of the two areas listed below:

(a) Area 1: Criteria for Demonstrating Civic Knowledge. Students may earn points, as outlined in guidance by the Commissioner, by earning credit in social studies courses, passing or receiving a mastery level score on a social studies Regents examination, or completing a civic readiness research project.

(b) Area 2: Criteria for Demonstrating Civic Participation. Students may earn points, as outlined in guidance by the Commissioner, by completing a culminating high school civic project, completing a service learning project, completing a middle school or high school Civics Capstone project, achieving proficiency in a civic engagement elective course, or participating in an extra-curricular program or work-based learning experience that promotes civic engagement or civic action for a minimum of 40 hours.