



New York State Education Department
Office of Special Education
Educational Partnership

Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities



Produced by the Technical Assistance Partnership for Transition at Cornell University.

Diploma Requirements



Credit Requirements



Assessment Requirements

Credit Requirements and Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Exemption

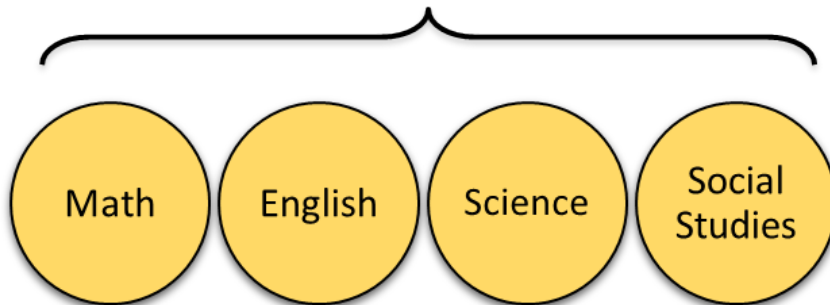
	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS
English	4
Social Studies (see note #6) <i>Distributed as follows:</i> U.S. History (1) Global History and Geography (2) Participation in Government (½) Economics (½)	4
Science <i>Distributed as follows:</i> Life Science (1) Physical Science (1) Life Science or Physical Science (1)	3
Mathematics	3
Languages Other than English (LOTE)	1(**)
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	1
Physical Education (participation each semester)	2
Health	0.5
Electives	3.5
Total	22

- A student with a disability may be excused from the required credit in LOTE but must still earn 22 credits to graduate.
- The LOTE exemption must be noted on the student's IEP.
- A student who is exempt from the diploma credit in LOTE is also exempt from the sequence required for advanced designation (LOTE, the Arts, or Career and Technical Education (CTE)).

Multiple (4+1) Pathways

4

All students must pass
4 required assessments
(one in each discipline)



+1

Pathways

STEM

Humanities

Arts

LOTE

CTE

CDOS

Types of Diplomas

Local

22 units of credit

- Used appeals, safety nets to meet assessment requirements, OR
- Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma

Regents

22 units of credit

- Earned passing scores (65+ for Regents exams)* on all required assessments (4 +1)

Regents with Advanced Designation

22 units of credit

- Earned passing score (65+) on all required assessments (7 + 1)
- Additional exams required
 - +2 math
 - +1 science
- Completed a sequence

* A student can appeal one Regents exam score within 5 points of passing and still receive a Regents Diploma

Seals and Endorsements

Local Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Regents Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement

Regents with Advanced Designation



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement



Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science



Regents Diploma for All Students

	Regents Diploma for All Students	
REGENTS EXAM or passing score on a Department-approved alternative	# of Exams	Passing Score
English Language Arts (ELA)	1	65
Math	1	65
Science	1	65
Social Studies	1	65
Pathway <i>(See note 1 on reverse side)</i>	1 or CDOS	65 if Regents Exam
Compensatory Safety Net	<i>Non-Applicable</i>	

[Department-Approved Alternatives to Regents Exams](#)



Regents Diploma

All Student Populations



ASSESSMENT:

5 Required Regents Exams, score is 65 or higher

EXAMPLE

Math – 65
ELA – 65
Science – 65
Global History – 65
US History – 65*

**Pathway -
Humanities*

EXAMPLE

Math – 65
ELA – 65
Science – 65
Global History – 65
Science – 65*

**Pathway - STEM*






EXAMPLE

Math – 65
ELA – 65
Science – 65
US History – 65
CDOS CC*

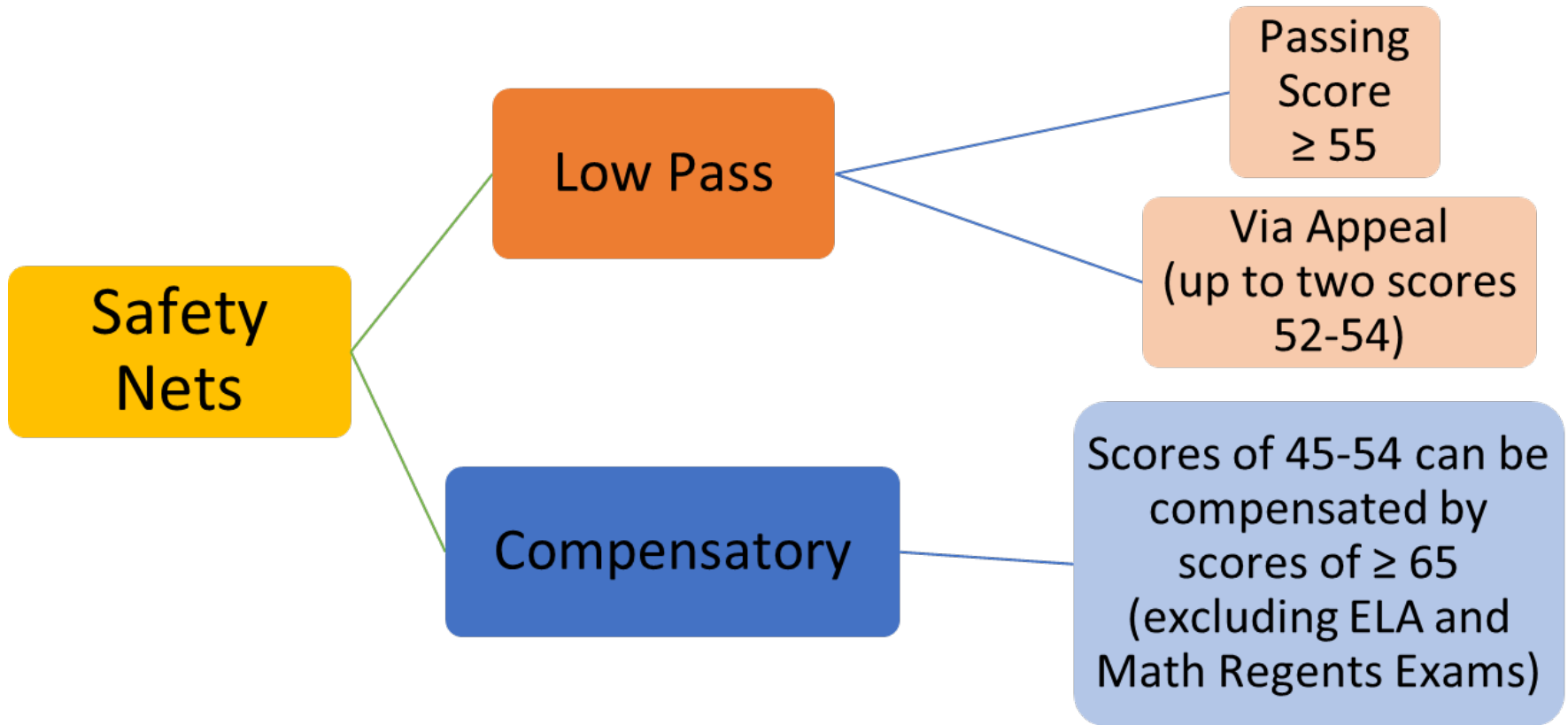
**Pathway – CDOS CC*

Appeal Eligibility Criteria

Students seeking an appeal must meet the following criteria:

	Have taken the Regents examination under appeal at least two times
	Have at least one score on the Regents examination under appeal within the point range appropriate for the appeal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All student appeal → 60-64• Students with disabilities seeking the local diploma → 52-54• English language learners seeking appeals in ELA only → 55-59*
	Have taken advantage of academic help provided by the school in the subject tested by the Regents examination under appeal
	Have passed the course for which the appeal is being sought
	Be recommended for an exemption to the graduation requirement by the student's teacher or Department chairperson in the subject of the Regents examination under appeal

Safety Nets for Students with Disabilities



Safety Net—Low Pass Option

Local diploma via low pass safety net for students with a disability

REGENTS EXAM or passing score on a Department approved alternative	Local Diploma for Students with a Disability	
	# of Exams	Passing Score
English Language Arts (ELA)	1	55 ^{*^}
Math	1	55 ^{*^}
Science	1	55 ^{*^}
Social Studies	1	55 ^{*^}
Pathway <i>(See note 1 on reverse side)</i>	1 or CDOS	55 ^{*^} if Regents Exam
Compensatory Safety Net	Scores of 45-54 on any required Regents exam (except ELA and Mathematics) can be compensated by a score of 65 or above on another required Regents exam including ELA and Mathematics.	

[Superintendent Determination Option for Graduation with a Local Diploma—Updated August 2018](#)

* Students with a disability that use the low pass safety net may also appeal scores of 52–54 on up to two Regents Examinations.

^ Students with a disability who are unable to obtain a passing score on these examinations may seek a local diploma by Superintendent’s Determination.

Appeal Eligibility Criteria

Students seeking an appeal must meet the following criteria:

2X

Have taken the Regents examination under appeal at least two times



Have at least one score on the Regents examination under appeal within the point range appropriate for the appeal:

- All student appeal → 60-64
- Students with disabilities seeking the local diploma → 52-54
- English language learners seeking appeals in ELA only → 55-59*



Have taken advantage of academic help provided by the school in the subject tested by the Regents examination under appeal



Have passed the course for which the appeal is being sought



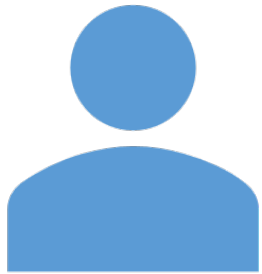
Be recommended for an exemption to the graduation requirement by the student's teacher or Department chairperson in the subject of the Regents examination under appeal

Safety Net—Compensatory Option

Local diploma via compensatory safety net for students with a disability

	Local Diploma for Students with a Disability	
REGENTS EXAM or passing score on a Department approved alternative	# of Exams	Passing Score
English Language Arts (ELA)	1	55 ^{*^}
Math	1	55 ^{*^}
Science	1	55 ^{*^}
Social Studies	1	55 ^{*^}
Pathway <i>(See note 1 on reverse side)</i>	1 or CDOS	55 ^{*^} if Regents Exam
Compensatory Safety Net	Scores of 45-54 on any required Regents exam (except ELA and Mathematics) can be compensated by a score of 65 or above on another required Regents exam including ELA and Mathematics.	

Eligibility for Superintendent Determination



Student with a disability receiving special education services (*not applicable to 504 or declassified students*)



Student participated in and passed all relevant Regents level coursework



Student actively participated in all required Regents examinations



Student earned the appropriate 22 units of diploma credit



Student's parent or person in parental relationship submitted a written request to the superintendent for a determination of a local diploma

SUPERINTENDENT DETERMINATION OF A LOCAL DIPLOMA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to December 2017, this option only applied to Social Studies and Science Regents Exams.

NOW...

Requests involving only **Science and Social Studies**

- Student must have earned a minimum score of 55 or successfully appealed a score of 52-54 on ELA and Math Regents exams.


Requests involving **Mathematics and/or English Language Arts**

- Student must have completed all the requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential.

Dual Role of CDOS Commencement Credential

CDOS Commencement Credential as a Pathway to a Local or Regents Diploma

Student:

- earns 22 units of credit
 - passes four required assessments (one in each discipline)
- 
- successfully completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

CDOS Commencement Credential as a Standalone Credential

Student:

- attempts, but does not successfully complete all the Regents or local diploma requirements
- completes all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

[CDOS Pathway to a Regents or Local Diploma](#)

CDOS Commencement Credential Requirements Option 1



Career Plan



Employability Profile



Demonstrated achievement of CDOS Learning Standards

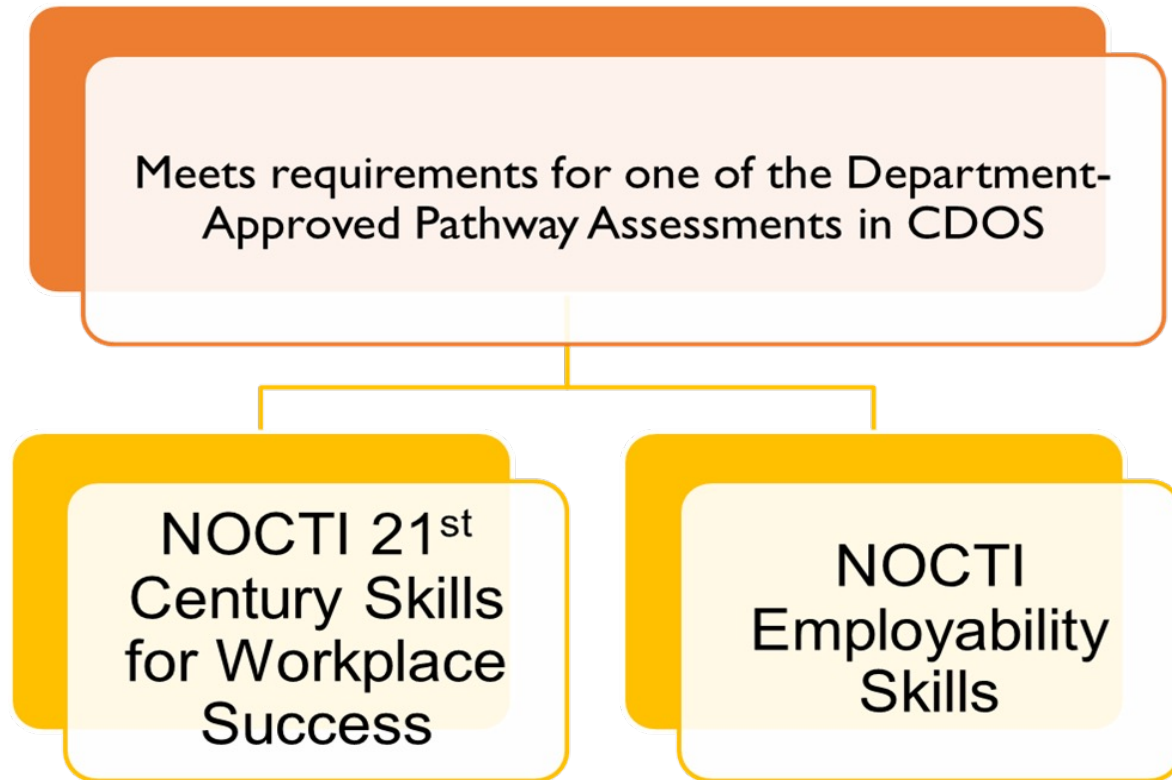


216 hours of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning experiences

- 54 hours must be work-based learning experiences

CDOS Commencement Credential Requirements

Option 2—August 2020 Additions



[Department-Approved CDOS Pathway Assessments \(PDF\)](#)

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

- Available to Students with Disabilities assessed using the NYS Alternate Assessment
- Must be accompanied by documentation of the students' skills and strengths and levels of independence in academic, career development and foundation skills needed for post-school living, learning and working

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (continued)

- The credential may be issued at any time after such student has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere, or at the end of the school year in which a student attains the age of 21.

Resources

- New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements Revised August 2021

[New York State Diploma/Credential Requirements \(nysed.gov\)](http://www.nysed.gov/diploma-requirements)

- Office of Curriculum and Instruction—General Education and Diploma Requirements

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/general-education-and-diploma-requirements>

- Office of Curriculum and Instruction—Understanding NYS Diploma Requirements

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/understanding-nys-diploma-requirements-family-resources>

- Office of Special Education—Information Related to Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/gradrequirements/home.html>

- Office of Curriculum and Instruction—Multiple Pathways

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/multiple-pathways>

Resources (continued)

- Department Approved CDOS Pathway Assessments (Updated August 31, 2020) (PDF)

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/cdos-approved-assessments-2017.pdf>

- Safety Net Options Available to Students with Disabilities (PDF)

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/gradrequirements/documents/safety-net-options-available-students-with-disabilities.pdf>

- Superintendent Determination Option Q&A (PDF)

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/documents/superintendent-determination-option-q-and-a-august-2018.pdf>

- CDOS Q & A 2018

http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/cdos-pathwayq-9-18.ose_.pdf

- CDOS Learning Standards

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/career-development-and-occupational-studies-cdos-standards>

- NYSED Commencement Level Career Plan

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/career-technical-education/career-plan-secondarycommenclvl.pdf>