



Our Students. Their Moment.

# Pathways To Graduation

Ensuring Students Graduate  
College, Career *and* Citizenship Ready

NYS Board of Regents  
January 12, 2015



# Ensuring Rigorous Pathways

---

## **All students earning a Regents Diploma will:**

- Take a balanced curriculum including: English Language Arts, Math, US History and Government, Global History and Geography, Science, a Language other than English, Art, Physical Education and Health;
- Earn a minimum of 22 High School Credits; and
- Meet required elements of their assessment pathway.

# 4 + 1 Assessment Pathway Requirements

---

Proposed amendments create graduation pathways in:

- Humanities,
- STEM,
- Biliteracy (languages other than English [LOTE]),
- CTE and
- the Arts.

In addition to the four Regents Exams or approved alternative exams all students must pass (English, Math, Science, Social Studies), students may meet the fifth exam requirement by passing one of the following exams:

# 4 + 1 Assessment Pathway Requirements

---

- Additional social studies Regents Exam or Department-approved alternative (**Humanities Pathway**); or
- Additional Regents Exam in a different course in mathematics or science or a Department-approved alternative (**STEM Pathway**); or
- Pathway exam approved by the Commissioner in accordance with § 100.2(f) (which could include a **Biliteracy [LOTE] Pathway**); or
- Career and technical education (CTE) pathway exam, approved by the Commissioner in accordance with proposed § 100.2(mm), following successful completion of an approved program (**CTE Pathway**); or
- Arts pathway exam approved by the Commissioner in accordance with proposed § 100.2(mm) (**Arts Pathway**).

# New Social Studies Graduation Requirements

Current	New
<p><b><i>Credits Required: 4</i></b> <b><i>Course Requirements</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US History and Government (1)</li><li>• Participation in Government* (.5)</li><li>• Economics* (.5)</li></ul>	<p><b><i>Credits Required: 4</i></b> <b><i>Course Requirements</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US History and Government (1)</li><li>• Participation in Government* (.5)</li><li>• Economics* (.5)</li><li>• Global History and Geography I* (1)</li><li>• Global History and Geography II* (1)</li></ul>
<p><b><i>Assessment Requirements</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global History and Geography <b><u>AND</u></b></li><li>• US History and Government</li></ul>	<p><b><i>Assessment Requirements</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global History and Geography II <b><u>OR**</u></b></li><li>• US History and Government</li></ul>

\* Or the equivalent

\*\* The second social studies exam is no longer required for graduation purposes for students not pursuing a humanities pathway. The second social studies exam may still be required by the school district for local purposes (e.g., to serve as a final exam for the course).

# Public Comment

---

- We received more than 180 comments.
- Comments were received from superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, business and industry.
- Majority of the responses expressed strong support for the 4 + 1 Pathways proposal and changes in social studies.
- Concerns were expressed in the following areas:
  - Elimination of a second required social studies exam;
  - Access to pathways of equal rigor for all students;
  - Increasing the number of approved alternative and pathways assessments.

# Additional Comments

## 4 + 1 Pathways

- Include components in every pathway that are similar to the requirements within the current CTE program approval process.
- Ensure pathways include instruction and assessment options for all students.
- Ensure all students have access to the proposed pathways.
- Develop a 3 + 2 option.

## Pathways Assessments & Graduation Requirements

- Expand the current list of approved technical assessments and ensure the list represents all 16 of the Career Clusters.
- Develop a pathway that includes approved performance-based assessments, in lieu of a required Regents Exam.
- Expand access to the appeals process.
- Consider a “grandfather” clause to allow all students previously failing the Global exam to use the assessment substitution option.
- Allow a low pass score (45) for students with disabilities in pathways assessment option.
- Encourage students to take both social studies exams before choosing a pathway.
- Reconsider high school exit exams and develop flexible, multiple-measure graduation criteria.

# Additional Comments

---

## Pathways Requirements

- Review existing teacher certification pathways and develop a certification pathway for individuals coming directly from business/industry.
- Restrict district-imposed caps on the number of students allowed to participate in CTE.
- Require financial education and work-based learning for all students.
- Increase the role of the academic teacher in CTE programs.
- Ensure districts, students, and families receive detailed information on pathways options.
- Address lost instructional time and state assessments in social studies in the elementary grades.



# Recommended Next Steps

---

- Adopt proposed amendments to NYCRR § § 100.2 & 100.5.
- Expand the list of approved pathways assessments.
- Share information about Pathways with the following groups:
  - a) Parents and students;
  - b) Teachers and guidance counselors;
  - c) Higher education;
  - d) Business and industry.
- Advocate for the Regents State Aid proposal, which would support opportunities for all students through:
  - a) Enhancing BOCES aid for CTE pathway programs;
  - b) Enhancing special services aid for CTE pathway programs operated in the Big 5 and non-component districts;
  - c) Support for regional secondary schools;
  - d) Expanding access to programs like P-TECH.