



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Angélica Infante-Green *Angélica Infante - Green*

**SUBJECT:** Review of the New York State High School Diploma Requirements

**DATE:** October 12, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Margaret Elin*

### SUMMARY

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Staff will review the July discussion regarding opportunities leading to a Regents diploma, present some current instructional practices in New York, and share the plan to seek input from the field for possible revisions.

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Review of Policy

#### **Proposed Handling**

This issue will be before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the October 2017 Regents meeting.

#### **Background Information**

Over the past several years the Board has adopted regulations to expand pathways to a diploma. During the July 2017 Regents meeting the Board requested this item to be brought back to the Regents for further discussion.

**Related Regent's Items**

Adoption of 4+1 Pathway Regulations

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Jan%202015/115p12a2.pdf>

Adoption of the 4+CDOS pathway

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a1.pdf>

Adoption of the Superintendent's Determination of a local diploma

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1216brca17.pdf>

**Current Diploma Requirements**

<b>Credit Requirements</b>	<b>Assessment Requirements</b>	
<p><b>Math - 3</b>  <b>ELA - 4</b>  <b>Science - 3</b>  <b>Social Studies - 4</b>  <b>Health - ½</b>  <b>PE - 2</b>  <b>Art - 1</b>  <b>LOTE - 1</b></p> <p><b>Free Electives - 3.5</b></p> <p><b>Total: 22</b></p>	<p>4+1 Pathway Model</p> <p>1 Math  1 Science  1 Social Studies  ELA</p> <p><b>Regents Diploma:</b></p> <p><b>Local Diploma</b>  Student with a disability:</p> <p>English Language Learner</p> <p>General Education Student</p>	<p>} + 1 Pathway Assess. or CDOS</p> <p>Minimum Scores:</p> <p>-65 on all exams; or  -60 on one exam with appeal and 65 on remaining exams</p> <p>-45 on science. and social studies with compensating 65 and 55 on ELA and math; or</p> <p>-55 on ELA and Math with Superintendent Determination; or</p> <p>-52 Appeal on two Exams, 55 on remaining exams</p> <p>-55 on ELA with appeal and 65 on remaining exams</p> <p>-60 on two exams with appeal and 65 on remaining exams</p>

## **Potential Goals**

The following are key goals for potential changes to the diploma requirements:

- Maintain rigorous graduation requirements while preparing students for 21<sup>st</sup>-century postsecondary options
  - Baccalaureate Programs in STEM, Humanities, Arts etc.
  - Technical degree programs
  - Career training certificate programs
  - Adult Education programs leading to certifications
  - Proprietary school programs
  - Military Service
  - Employment
- Offer more flexibility in completing credit requirements related to pathway choice and student interest.
- Expand external certification assessment options.
- Allow students to demonstrate proficiency in multiple ways.

## **Key Considerations**

The following questions should be carefully considered as we move toward any change in requirements for a New York State diploma:

- How do we ensure that all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners, are able to access rigorous coursework?
- Should students have the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in a specific area for graduation through a district-designed, standards-based Capstone project?

## **Related Regents Item(s)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718PathwaystoGraduation.pdf>

## **Recommendation**

Direct staff to review diploma requirement options to meet the goals and key considerations outlined above. Seek input from various stakeholder groups related to options and return to the Board in December for further discussion and recommendations.