




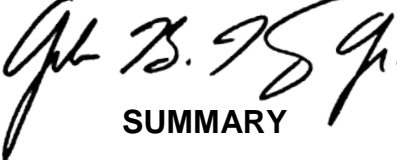
TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Ken Slentz 

SUBJECT: Proposed amendments of §100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner relating to the Regents Research Paper requirement for students taking the Regents Examination in ELA (Common Core) and the transition to Common Core Regents Examinations in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics

DATE: April 15, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issues for Discussion

Should the Regents adopt an amendment of §100.5 of Commissioner's Regulations to require a Regents Research Paper for admission to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) beginning with the January 2015 administration?

Should the Regents direct Department staff to develop proposed regulatory amendments to Commissioner's Regulations to reflect the implementation of the Regents 2010 adoption of the Common Core Standards and 2011 adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards at the high school level as previously directed by the Board of Regents (e.g., updates to the provisions regarding credit by examination and transfer credit)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Implementation of policy

Proposed Handling

A proposed amendment of §100.5 relating to the Regents Research Paper will be discussed by the full Board at its April 2013 meeting. If the Regents so direct, Department staff will propose a regulatory amendment for emergency action at the June 2013 Regents meeting.

If the Regents direct Department staff to develop proposed regulatory amendments to implement the Regents 2010 adoption of the Common Core Standards and 2011 adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards, staff will propose such amendments to the Board for adoption as an emergency measure at the June 2013 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The Board of Regents adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics at its July 2010 meeting and incorporated New York-specific additions, creating the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), at its January 2011 meeting. To implement the new standards, the Board has previously directed the Department to develop a plan and timeline for developing and administering assessments aligned to the CCLS in ELA and math in Grades 3-8 and high school and to provide the field with training, tools and resources to ensure a successful transition to the CCLS.

To ensure implementation of the CCLS in line with the Regents Reform Agenda and the State's winning Race to the Top (RTTT) application, all students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) to meet graduation requirements. The Regents Research Paper is an opportunity for students, beginning with the January 2015 administration of the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core), to demonstrate necessary college and career readiness skills and CCLS writing standards that cannot be measured in an examination setting due to time constraints. The proposed amendment will incorporate this requirement into §100.5 of the Commissioner's regulations.

Background Information

The adoption and implementation of the CCLS is a central tenet of the Regents Reform Agenda and the State's RTTT commitments. To fulfill this commitment, the Board has previously directed the Department to develop a plan and timeline for developing and administering assessments aligned to the CCLS in Grades 3-8 and high school and to provide the field with training, tools and resources to ensure a successful transition to the CCLS. Department staff has regularly provided the Board with information and updates on our progress in aligning State assessments to the CCLS in accordance with the Board's July 2010 adoption of the Common Core Standards and January 2011 adoption of the CCLS (e.g., May and November 2011; March, April, July, September and November 2012).

A) Proposed Regulatory Amendment: Regents Research Paper

To ensure implementation of the CCLS in line with the Regents Reform Agenda and the State's RTTT application, all students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study

aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) to meet graduation requirements.

The proposed regulatory amendment to §100.5 of the Commissioner's regulations would establish a Regents Research Paper requirement as an opportunity for students to demonstrate necessary college and career readiness skills and CCLS writing standards that cannot be measured in an examination setting due to time constraints. The regulation would require that, beginning with the January 2015 test administration, satisfactory completion of the Regents Research Paper will be a prerequisite for admission to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core). The amendment would require the following minimum standards for the Regents Research Paper:

- 1) The Regents Research Paper will be submitted, in the English language, as a word-processed document according to the publication guidelines of the discipline pertaining to the subject of the paper. Hand-written papers may be allowed where appropriate (e.g., for students with disabilities whose IEP or 504 plan specifies such accommodation) or in extenuating circumstances, as determined by the principal.
- 2) The Regents Research Paper must cite a minimum of four informational texts as sources gathered from multiple authoritative print and/or digital sources. Literature texts, while admissible as sources, cannot be counted toward this minimum source requirement.
- 3) The Regents Research Paper will be a minimum of five typed pages (approximately 1,250 words of text), exclusive of works cited, graphics, cover page, etc.
- 4) The final student draft of the Regents Research Paper must be accompanied by a procedural checklist that meets State requirements.

School districts will be encouraged to develop research paper guidelines that exceed these minimum requirements. English language learners and students with disabilities will be allowed accommodations as appropriate, and the Department will develop guidance on allowable accommodations for such students with respect to the Regents Research Paper. In addition, the Department will provide general guidance on the Regents Research Paper, including the following:

- The Regents Research Paper must be completed and graded with sufficient time prior to the student taking the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core).
- The English teacher is responsible for the instruction of skills and adherence to the process resulting in a satisfactorily completed Regents Research Paper. It is permissible for the topic of the paper to be from other disciplines and could also include a research project.

- The Principal will certify and maintain records on which students completed the Regents Research Paper prerequisite and are eligible to be admitted to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core).
- The Regents Research Paper is an opportunity for students to demonstrate necessary college and career readiness skills and CCLS writing standards (specifically, anchor standards 7, 8, and 9) that cannot be measured in the Regents Exam due to time constraints.
- The Department will provide high-level requirements and guidance on the Regents Research Paper; however, these will allow for flexibility in the ways in which individual LEAs / teachers allow students to meet the requirements.
- The Department will provide exemplars to illustrate various ways that students can meet the Regents Research Paper requirement.

B) Other Actions Necessary to Implement the CCLS as Adopted by the Regents in 2011

As noted above, since 2010 Department staff has provided the Regents with regular updates and information on our continuing work to transition to Common Core assessments. The transition plan for the new CCLS-aligned Regents Exams, described below, reflects the Regents actions and direction to Department staff since adoption of the Common Core in 2010 and the CCLS in 2011. The plan will require amendments to related regulatory provisions in Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations, including updates to the provisions regarding credit by examination and transfer credit, which Department staff will propose to the Board for emergency adoption in June 2013. A summary of the transition plan is provided below.

In order to ensure adequate notice and time for students to be prepared to take the new Regents Exams measuring the CCLS, and based on feedback from the field, the Department will provide an overlap in the administration of the current Regents Exams measuring the Learning Standards for mathematics (Revised 2005) and the Learning Standards for ELA (2005 Core Curriculum), with the new Regents Exams measuring the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and mathematics and to provide a phased-in sequence for math and ELA. To assist schools in the transition, test blueprints and sample questions will be available in late spring 2013 for the Regents Exams in ELA and Algebra I (Common Core), which will be administered for the first time in June 2014.

1) ELA

Although not a "comprehensive" exam, the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) is designed to be administered at the end of Grade 11, similar to typical practice with the current Regents Comprehensive Exam in English.

The last administration of the current Regents Comprehensive Exam in English will occur in June 2016. The transition plan to for the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) includes the following:

- All students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year and thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) to meet graduation requirements.
- All students who first entered Grade 9 prior to the 2013-14 school year may meet the requirements for graduation by enrolling in Common Core English courses and passing the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) or enrolling in English courses aligned to the Learning Standards (2005 Core Curriculum) and passing the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English, while that exam is still being offered. See below for a summary.

Date of first entry into Grade 9	Course of Study	Required Assessment
2013-14 and thereafter	English Courses – Common Core	Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core)*
Prior to 2013-14	(a) English Courses – Common Core Or (at local discretion) (b) English Courses aligned to ELA Learning Standards (2005 Core Curriculum)	If (a), then Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core)* If (b), then Regents Comprehensive Exam in English aligned to the ELA Learning Standards (2005 Core Curriculum)

* For the June 2014 and August 2014 administrations only, students enrolled in Common Core English courses may, at local discretion, take the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards) in addition to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) and may meet graduation requirements by passing either exam.

2) Mathematics

It is expected that the commencement-level math courses culminating in CCLS Regents Exams will be taught to most students in a sequential manner, beginning with Algebra I in the 2013-14 school year, followed by Geometry in 2014-15, and Algebra II in 2015-16.

The last administrations of the current Regents Exams in Integrated Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2/Trigonometry will be in January 2015, January 2016, and

January 2017, respectively. The transition plan for the new Regents Exams in Math (Common Core) includes the following:

- Any student who in September 2013 or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, begins their first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later must take the New York State CCLS Regents Exam in mathematics that corresponds to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction.
- Those students who began or will complete an Integrated Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2/Trigonometry course prior to September 2013 must take the corresponding Regents Exams aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005), while those exams are still being offered. See below for a summary.

Students	Course of Study	Required Assessment
Students who in September 2013 or thereafter begin their first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later, as available	Math Courses – Common Core (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)	Regents Exam in Math (Common Core)*
Students who prior to September 2013 began or will complete a math course aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)	Math Courses aligned to Mathematics Learning Standards and Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)	Regents Exams aligned to Mathematics Learning Standards and Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)

* For the June 2014 and August 2014 administrations only, students receiving Algebra I (Common Core) instruction may, at local discretion, take the Regents Exam in Integrated Algebra (2005 Revised) in addition to the Regents Exam in Algebra I (Common Core) and may meet graduation requirements by passing either exam.

Based on feedback from the field and the recommendation to teach math courses in a sequential manner, the Department has decided to postpone the first administrations of the CCLS exams in Geometry and Algebra II until June 2015 and June 2016, respectively.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Regents P-12 Education Committee reach consensus on the intent of the proposed amendment relating to the Regents Research Paper.

Staff also recommends that the Regents direct the Department to develop proposed amendments to Commissioner's Regulations to reflect the implementation of the Regents 2010 adoption of the Common Core Standards and 2011 adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards at the high school level as previously directed by the Board of Regents (e.g., updates to the provisions regarding credit by examination and transfer credit).

If so directed by the Regents, Department staff will prepare amendments to §100.5 of the Commissioner's regulations and present the proposed amendments to the Board for adoption as an emergency measure at the June 2013 Regents meeting.