



/ THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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**FROM:** Betty A. Rosa, Interim Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Cancellation of the January 2021 Administration of the New York State (NYS) High School Regents Examination Program in Response to the Ongoing Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) is cancelling the January 2021 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program in response to the ongoing impact of the COVID –19 pandemic. This cancellation applies to all Regents Examinations that had been scheduled for the January 2021 Regents Examination period. This memorandum also provides information on the adjustments that I will ask the Board of Regents to adopt as emergency regulations with respect to the assessment requirements that students must ordinarily meet in order to earn diplomas, credentials, and endorsements so that the cancellation of these exams will not adversely impact students.

In a September 30, 2020 letter, Vice Chancellor Brown wrote:

“The members of the Board of Regents acknowledge the uncertainty that abounds this school year. I can assure you that the Interim Commissioner and the Department are closely monitoring the situation throughout the State.”

As this school year has progressed and the dates

## **Modifications to Diploma Requirements for Students Impacted by the Cancellation of January 2021 Regents Examinations**

Because of the cancellation of the January 2021 Regents Examinations, the Department is making modifications to the assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students who are completing a secondary-level course of study or make-up program in January and are scheduled to participate in one or more of the January 2021 Regents Examinations.

### **Regents Examination Exemptions**

In the case of a mastery in mathematics and/or science endorsement, the student must achieve an 85 or above on at least two Regents Examinations in mathematics and/or science, in addition to being granted a Regents Examination exemption for a third Regents Examination in math and/or science.

### **Recording Student Scores for the January 2021 COVID-19 Exemptions**

Student transcripts should reflect the examination name and a score of “E” for exempt for those students meeting the eligibility requirements for such exemption outlined above. Schools must report a Standard Achieved Code of “86” with the course of study in which the student earned credit. No other Standard Achieved Code may be used to report these exemptions.

Any questions about the exemptions from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to [emscgradreq@nysed.gov](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov).

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Please continue to monitor NYSED’s [COVID-19 Information site](#) for additional guidance as it becomes available.