

April 7, 2020

Dear Families:

During this ever-evolving public health crisis, the health and safety of all of our students continues to be our first priority. We know that this is a stressful time for all New Yorkers, but especially for our students who are about to graduate. Please be assured that we are here to provide resources and support to help all graduating students remain on their path to successful completion of high school. Below is the latest guidance regarding necessary requirements for graduation.

### **View Progress Towards Graduation Using Your NYC Schools Account**

We encourage you to check your New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) to track your student's progress towards graduation. Families can use the Graduation Tracker in NYCSA to view the credits a student has earned, the exams a student has passed, the student's credits-in-progress, and the remaining credits a student needs to receive either a Regents or advanced Regents diploma.

If you haven't already, you can create an account here: [mystudent.nyc](https://mystudent.nyc). The information in NYCSA does not replace conversations with your child's school, but can help you and your student assess their pathway towards graduation.

### **June Regents Exams Are Cancelled, And Exams Are Waived for Some Students**

NYSED and the Board of Regents have cancelled the June 2020 Regents exams. As a result, students who intended to take any June 2020 Regents may be eligible for a June 2020 Regents exemption. This exemption applies to:

- Any student currently enrolled in a course that culminates in a June Regents exam, and who will have earned credit in the course.
- Any student currently enrolled in a course that culminates in a June Regents exam and who fails to earn credit by the end of the school year, but returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit. Such students will subsequently be granted diploma credit in August 2020.
- Any student who was previously enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam, has earned course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents exam but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score.

Although the Regents exams have been cancelled, students must still complete their required coursework in order to receive credits towards graduation.

### **Course Credit Requirements Remain the Same**

While classes have shifted to a new platform, the method of instruction does not affect course credit requirements. Students must earn 44 credits to graduate regardless of whether they are learning in the classroom or remotely.

During remote learning, teachers will continue to grade students' work so that they receive feedback about their progress. At the end of their courses, students will receive final grades as they would during traditional

instruction. If students pass their courses, they will receive course credit. Students should connect with their teachers if they need additional support to stay on track with their courses.

**Attendance Will Not Be Used to Calculate Grades**

In the past, some schools may have used attendance as one element in determining a student’s final grade. Attendance may no longer be used as a factor in grading. Schools will continue to monitor student interaction and engagement in remote learning, but students will be graded primarily on whether they meet the academic requirements of the course. Contact your school if you have questions about the grading policy.

For additional information on graduation requirements and recent changes, please contact your school or visit [schools.nyc.gov/graduationrequirements](https://schools.nyc.gov/graduationrequirements).

We are here to support our entire DOE community during this difficult time. For regular DOE updates regarding the coronavirus, please visit [schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus).

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza  
Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education