

Canceling of Regents Exams, Regents Credits, Graduation Pathways, and Secondary Grading

How to Use This Resource

This document provides insight into recent changes made by the State Education Department that will have a lasting impact on many of our middle and high school age students. It was built to answer many but not all questions that may result from some of these recent changes. We encourage you to read the following closely and to reach out to your child's guidance counselor to better understand how these changes may impact your child.

This resource is broken down into several sections. The first deals with general information and information pertaining to Regents exams and graduation pathways. The second section deals with grading for the third and fourth marking periods. We continue to stand by you and your children to help navigate these uncharted waters together.

Cancellation of Regent Exam and Graduation Pathways

The June 2020 administration of Regents Exams has been cancelled by the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents. Students in grades 8-12 who pass or have passed a Regents-level class and were scheduled to take (or re-take) the Regents exam this June will receive credit for the test. There is no requirement to make up 2020 Regents exams in the future.

If a student failed a Regents exam or multiple Regents exams previously and passed the respective class(es), those students have been automatically signed up to take the Regents this spring. Since the exams were canceled, students will automatically get the Regents credit as long as they passed the course. The district is taking this action on behalf of all of our students.

Frequently Asked Questions: Regents and Graduation Pathways

What constitutes Regents credit for a course?

Students only need to pass a Regents level class. Final course averages are being used to determine if a student has successfully passed a course. Students will not have to take the Regents exam in the future.

Will my child still receive High School credit for middle school regents courses?

Yes, All students passing Algebra I, Earth Science and Living Environment will receive Regents credit. They will not have to take the exam in the future.

Students will also earn high school credit for passing 8th grade (second year) LOTE (Languages other than English: i.e. Spanish, Italian, & French).

Will students go on to the next course in a sequence in September or are students required to repeat current courses?

Students will go on to the next course if they have passed the current course. Summer school may be an option for credit recovery and is being considered to assist certain students that may need this extra time to prepare for future course work.

If a student fails a course that culminates in a Regents examination, and then enrolls in a 2020 Summer School program and passes that course, is s/he eligible for an exemption to that Regents examination?

Yes. As long as the student successfully makes up the credit in summer of 2020, the student can be considered exempt from the culminating Regents Exam.

Do students need to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences in order to be exempted from a science Regents Exam?

No. Hands on laboratory experiences missed because of extended school closure or student absence due to COVID-19 does not preclude a student from being exempt for the corresponding Science Regents Examination.

Can a district exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE examination in order for students to meet the requirements of the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation?

A district may exempt a student from the locally developed Checkpoint B examination if the student will have earned at least 3 diploma credits in the LOTE subject by the end of the 2019-20 school year. We will be exempting our students who have met this condition.

Can students exempted from Regents exams still earn a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation?

Yes. Any students who have Regents Exams exempted due to the cancellation of the June 2020 examination administration are not required to pass such Regents exams necessary for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. Example: A student is scheduled to take the Algebra II Regents examination and the Earth Science Regents

examination in June 2020. S/he has passed all other examinations necessary for the Regents with Advanced Designation. This student will not be required to pass the Earth Science and Algebra II exams, but will still earn the Regents with Advanced Designation diploma.

Can students earn the Mastery endorsement(s) in Math and/or Science if they are exempt from a Math or Science Regents Examination needed for such endorsement?

Yes. While no actual score would be given, students who are exempted from a math and/or a science Regents examination, and pass at least two additional Regents exams in math with scores of 85 or above, or 2 additional Regents Exams in science with an 85 or above, would be entitled to a Mastery in Math and/or Science on their diplomas.

Example 1: A student has taken Algebra I and earned a 90, Geometry and earned an 87 and received an exemption to the Algebra II Regents Exam. He has 2 exams with an 85 or above and a third exam exemption. This student would qualify for Mastery in Mathematics. Example 2: A senior was enrolled in Physics and has successfully earned course credit. She received a Regents exam exemption. She earned a 90 on her Living Environment Regents exam, a 96 on her Earth Science Regents exam, and an 84 on her Chemistry Regents exam. Since this senior had two science Regents exam scores above 85 and the physics exam score waived, she is deemed to have met the requirements for the Mastery endorsement in Science. Example 3: A student has passed the Algebra 1 Regents examination with an 85 and is now enrolled in Geometry and will be exempt from the examination in June 2020. This student will go on to Algebra II in the next school year. If she earns an 85 or above on Algebra II, she will have 2 exams in math with an 85 or better and 1 exemption and will be entitled to the Mastery in Mathematics endorsement when she graduates.

Can students earn the honors endorsement if they are granted examination exemptions?

Yes. While exempted exams may be used to meet assessment requirements for any diploma type, they would be removed from the calculation of the honors endorsement. For example, a student meets assessment requirements for a Regents diploma with the following exam scores: English Regents - 89; Algebra I Regents - 92; Living Environment Regents - 90; US History Regents - waived (COVID-19 Exam exemption); Earth Science Regents - 89 (+1 pathway). Since the average of the Regents exam scores required for the diploma type (not including the waived exam) equals 90, the student is entitled to the Regents Diploma with Honors endorsement. The same is true for the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors.

Can exemptions to +1 Pathway Assessments be granted?

Yes. Any student preparing to take a +1 Pathway Assessment in June 2020 shall be granted an exemption to such assessment and would meet this diploma requirement (as long as a passing grade is earned in the class). Please reach out to your child's guidance counselor who will help provide information regarding the +1 pathway.

How have special education graduation pathways been affected by these new changes?

All of the above applies to our special education students including information on advanced regents diplomas, regents diplomas, 4+1 graduation pathways, CDOS credentials, and local diplomas. Some of our special education students utilize specific pathways and options to support their specific needs. In the event that you have questions that are not answered in this document, please contact your child's [school counselor](#) via email or Brian Norton (High School Special Education Chairperson) at bnorton@farmingdaleschools.org.

Can the work that my child does during the Distance Learning time impact their academic future in Farmingdale Schools?

Yes! Students are required to participate and complete work assigned by the teacher(s) to achieve credit, be promoted to the next grade, and receive enough credits to graduate. The work assigned during this learning time is essential for student accountability for learning and for achieving all required credits for promotion. As Regents credits are also achieved based on final grades, any student that does not complete assignments and fails the class, will not receive Regents credit and will have to retake the course and exam at a later date.

Secondary Grading (Grades 6 -12)***For the Third Quarter, we are adopting the following grading procedures for all students in grades 6-12:***

The third quarter grades will be calculated based on numerical averages. The third quarter was extended for an additional two weeks due to the COVID-19 school closing. It now ends on Friday, April 17, 2020. This time extension allowed for students to complete any unfinished work to support their third quarter average. Students' third quarter grades will not be negatively impacted by any action or inaction that occurred since our schools were closed on Monday, March 16, 2020. Work completed from March 16, 2020 until April 17, 2020 can only positively impact a student's third quarter grade point average.

For the Fourth Quarter, we are adopting the following:

The fourth quarter grades will be calculated based on grading bands. There are only four possible grades that a student can earn in the fourth quarter: **100, 85, 70 and 59.**

Teachers will assign one of these four grades based on completion of assignments, and/or the demonstration of learning that the teacher has determined to be necessary based on course requirements. The grading scheme is largely built on a student remaining actively engaged in the work on a daily basis. The following lays out this new grading procedure:

- **If a student's fourth quarter grade falls between a 100 and an 86, the student will receive a fourth quarter grade of 100** *(Example: if a student completes the work assigned and puts forth a significant effort, the student would receive 100 for the 4th quarter)*
- **If a student's fourth quarter grade falls between a 85 and an 71, the student will receive a fourth quarter grade of 85** *(Example: if a student completes the most important work assigned and puts forth a significant effort, the student will receive an 85 for the 4th quarter)*
- **If a student's fourth quarter grade falls between a 70 and an 60, the student will receive a fourth quarter grade of 70** *(Example: if a student completes some of the work assigned and puts forth some effort, the student will receive a 70.)*
- **If a student's fourth quarter grade falls between a 59 and a 0, the student will receive a fourth quarter grade of 59** *(Example: If a student puts forth little to no effort and does little to no work, the student will receive a 59. Plans are in place to support a student that is not responding to assignments.*
- **INCOMPLETE** - must be vetted by Instructional Support Team process and building administration prior to assigning INC as a final grade.

Teachers will enter fourth quarter grades manually as the Infinite Campus gradebook will only be used to keep track of assignments and outstanding work. Any averages that show up in the portal will not reflect the true final average as stated above.

Final Average for a Course

Keeping students engaged in the learning but not penalizing students for the current virtual learning environment has led to a decision to recalculate grades for the 2019-20

school year. The following describes how grades will be calculated for the 2019-20 school year.

Full year Course with Quarterly exams calculated separate from the Quarter grades

Quarter 1 =25 %

First Quarterly Exam = 3%

Quarter 2 =25%

Second Quarterly Exam or Midterm= 6%

Quarter 3 = 25%

Quarter 4 = 16%

Total= 100%

Full year Course **without** Quarterly Exams and Midterm

Quarter 1 =28%

Quarter 2 =28 %

Quarter 3 = 28 %

Quarter 4 = 16%

Full year Course with Midterm only

Quarter 1 =26 %

Quarter 2 =25%

Midterm= 8%

Quarter 3 = 25%

Quarter 4 = 16%

Total= 100%

Half Year Course

Since the fourth quarter allows for grading bands that may give a boost to a student's grade, we will weigh the 2 marking periods equally. No final exam will be given.

Quarter 3 =50%

Quarter 4 = 50%

Full or Half Year College Course

We will follow the guidelines recommended by the College to best ensure that students receive college credit.

High School Weighted Courses

These classes will still receive a weighted final average based on the criteria set forth in our course catalog.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information. Again, if you have any questions, please reach out to your child's school counselor for more information.