

Massapequa Public Schools

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Office of Curriculum and Instruction

September 18, 2025

Dear Secondary Families,

Your child is enrolled in Earth & Space Science or Life Science: Biology, both Regents-level courses required for graduation. These courses now align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS) to prepare students for the new Regents exams in June 2026.

The first administration of these exams was in June 2025. School districts were provided with the option to delay their first administration until June 2026. Massapequa opted to take advantage of the additional year to prepare for the curricula changes. Our first administration of the Earth & Space Science and Life Science: Biology Regents Exams will be June 2026.

Much has changed with both courses. These changes are not isolated to Massapequa but in all school districts across New York State.

The anticipated long-term benefits are that students will not only be exposed to rich, meaningful science content but will develop stronger analytical skills which will translate into improved learning across disciplines. Student-centered and inquiry-based learning will be emphasized.

In reviewing the exams administered in June, the curricula changes are clear:

- There is a greater emphasis on inquiry-based learning, data analysis, and literacy skills.
- The exams are more rigorous, requiring strong reading comprehension and analytical skills.

We have anticipated these changes and have prepared. Over the past two years, teachers have engaged in professional development and will continue this year. They are collaborating with reading specialists and ELA teachers to integrate literacy strategies and have developed new curricula, resources, and assessments aligned with the updated standards.

Massapequa science teachers have worked diligently in developing new curricula that focus on these skills without compromising the delivery of the instructional content. These skills will not only result in better science students but better learners across all academic disciplines.

Despite the challenges that students and teachers will face, I am confident that Science education in Massapequa will continue to provide students with the foundations for future success.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mezzafonte

Supervisor of Science, 6-12