



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

From: Rose M. LeRoy, Director *Rose M. LeRoy*

Date: June 4, 2020

Subject: Reporting of Student Exemptions for the June and August 2020 Regents and Approved Alternative Examinations in SIRS in Response to COVID-19 Related School and District Closures

This memorandum is to provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) (or “reporting entities”) with guidance on reporting student exemptions from the June and the August 2020 administrations of the Regents Examinations and approved alternatives in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS).

On April 7, 2020, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) announced the [cancellation of the June 2020 administration of Regents Examinations](#) in response to COVID-19 related school and district closures and provided guidance on which students could be exempted from certain assessment requirements for diploma-granting purposes. On April 30, 2020, the Department announced the [cancellation of the August 2020 administration of Regents Examinations](#). On May 26, 2020, the Department provided [updated guidance on Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure](#).

Standard Achieved Code for Reporting Exemptions

The Department has introduced a new Standard Achieved Code of “86” to report student exemptions from taking and passing the June 2020 and August 2020 Regents Examinations and approved alternatives. These students must be reported in SIRS with the Assessment Measure Code associated with the course of study in which the student earned credit and a Standard Achieved Code of “86.” No other Standard Achieved Code may be used to report these exemptions.

Recording of Exemptions on Students’ Transcripts

No score should be recorded on a student’s transcript for examinations for which was granted an exemption due to COVID-19 related Statewide closure of schools and

cancellation of these June and August 2020 Regents and approved alternative examinations. Student transcripts should reflect the examination name and a score of “E” for exempt for those students meeting the eligibility requirements for such an exemption outlined in the April 7 and/or the May 26, 2020 updated guidance from the Department.

Reporting of Regents Examination Results in NYS Report Cards

Annual Regents and Total Cohort Regents Examination data will not be reported in the 2019-20 NYS Report Cards in accordance with the USDOE-approved waiver. Guidance on the reporting of these data in 2020-21 NYS Report Cards will be forthcoming.

Use of Regents and Approved Alternatives in Accountability Calculations

Outcomes for performance indicators for accountability using 2019-20 data will not be determined in accordance with the USDOE-approved waiver. District and school accountability statuses for the 2020-21SY will be the same as those in the 2019-20SY. Guidance on the use of exemptions to Regents and Approved alternatives when calculating future accountability outcomes will be forthcoming.

Impact of Exemptions on Accelerated Middle-School Students

Students in grades 7 and 8 may take a Regents examination in math in lieu of the grades 7 and 8 New York Testing Program (NYSTP) Mathematics assessments. Students in grade 8 may take a Regents examination in science in lieu of the Grade 8 Science Test. The NYSTP assessments and the Grade 8 Science Test, in addition to the June and August 2020 Regents examinations, were canceled in Spring 2020. Accelerated students who were exempt from a Regents examination in math or science due to COVID-19 related school and district closures will not have that assessment “banked” for use at the secondary level for accountability or total cohort assessment reporting purposes.

We sincerely appreciate all the work everyone is involved in every day and want you to know we are here to provide support. Questions about the use of SIRS Assessment Measure Codes should be directed to your [Regional Level 1/Big 5](#) center. Questions about accountability should be directed to the [Office of Accountability](#). Questions about how to record exemptions on a student’s transcript should be directed to the vendor support personnel at your [Regional Level 1/Big 5](#) center. If your student management system (SMS) is not supported by a Regional Level 1/Big 5 center, please contact the SMS vendor for support. Questions about SIRS or SIRS data reporting should be directed to the Office of Information and Reporting Services at [Data Support](#) or 518-474-7965.