



April 8, 2020

To All Students Taking High School-Level Courses in Grades 8-12 and Their Parents/Guardians:

As you may know, the New York State Board of Regents (Regents) recently made the decision to cancel the June 2020 Regents exams. In doing so, the Regents needed to provide guidance to schools around important items such as: exemptions for students from Regents exams needed toward graduation or different diploma designations; earning course credit for all students taking high school-level coursework; meeting graduation requirements; and the various pathways that students may have chosen as part of their high school coursework. This is an unprecedented time; the Regents and New York State Education Department (NYSED) leadership have done an excellent job in taking care of our students.

It will be impossible to highlight all of the points contained in the Regents' decision in this letter. Therefore, I am providing links to the two documents that the NYSED released yesterday regarding this topic. I think you'll find the documents to be comprehensive and understandable. It is likely that you will have some questions after reading them and that's okay. We are here to help make sure everyone has a full understanding of what this information means for each and every one of our students. Here are the links:

- <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/coronavirus/nysed-covid-19-memo-cancellation-june-2020-regents-exams.pdf>
- <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/coronavirus/nysed-covid-19-regents-grad-req-faq.pdf>

Here is what I believe are the most significant, high-level takeaways:

- Students must pass the class in order to receive the exemption from the associated Regents exam. Coursework from the entire school year will impact a student's ability to pass the class (this includes the work from the period of closure).
- Being exempted from a Regents exam will count for a student toward different diploma types (local, Regents, Regents with advanced designation). For example, students who were working to achieve the advanced designation are still eligible to earn that diploma. Per question #24 on the FAQ, "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 with Advanced Designation."
- Students who previously failed a Regents examination, but have received course credit are exempt from that Regents (i.e. you no longer have to re-take that Regents – you are exempt).
- Students are exempted from the exams for courses that they were enrolled in for the remainder of their HS experience. For example, if a student was enrolled in Algebra 1 they are considered exempt due to COVID-19 for the remainder of the time that they are enrolled in HS and may progress to Geometry or Algebra II. Students should be allowed to continue with progression of coursework if they have been given course credit and have been exempted from the Regents.
- Grade 8 students who were enrolled in a course leading to the Regents who have met the standards are exempt from that Regents and will receive course credit.

There is still responsibility and accountability for the students in terms of making sure that they successfully complete their coursework. It is critical that students earn passing grades in their classes! In order for students to receive the exemption for a Regents exam AND receive credit for the course (i.e. credit needed toward graduation), the student needs to have “met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.” Therefore, the body of work that the student has completed throughout the entire school year, including the period of closure, for each of their courses is critically important. Let me reiterate, all students are expected to be doing the work that they are involved with right now in order to get credit.

Please know that we will ensure every opportunity provided to students through the decisions made by the Regents/NYSED will be extended and applied to each of our students in Harpursville for the greatest advantage possible. Feel free to email your guidance counselor or principal with any questions that you have regarding this information and how it might apply to your unique situation. They will get back to you with answers. Your teachers will be able to help answer some of your questions too. Lastly and as you’ve probably already noticed, all students need to keep working hard on their schoolwork for the remainder of the school year. To the students: I know that this is a strange and challenging time right now, but just keep the lines of communication open with your teachers and keep putting your best academic foot forward! I know you can and will do it!

Yours in education,



Mr. Michael J. Rullo
Superintendent of Schools