

NYS Testing 2021 Update

Updated March 26, 2021

Earlier this year the NYS Education Department (NYSED) applied to the United States Education Department (USED) for a waiver for required testing for this year. That application was denied. Although NYSED has submitted a second waiver application, a decision has yet not yet been provided by USED and therefore, we must proceed with planning for those tests that will still be required, specifically certain Regents Exams and 3-8 English Language Arts and Math assessments. The following changes were approved by NYSED to be responsive to hardships impacting students during the pandemic:

- Math and English Language Arts (ELA) tests in Grades 3 through 8 are still being given, although the length of the tests has been significantly reduced. As has always been the case, the results of these assessments are used as an objective measure to see how our teaching and learning match up against the expectations of the NYS Learning Standards.
- Schools must administer the grades 3-8 tests in person, at school. Remote testing will not be allowed. **However**, “Schools are **not** expected to bring students into the building to participate in the tests **if the students are receiving entirely remote instruction during the testing windows.**” This means any student in the “all remote” instructional model during testing will not be required to come to school on testing day. However, if parents of fully remote learners are interested in having their child participate in the ELA and Math assessments, please contact your building principal by **Thursday, April 1st.**
- Districts are also required to administer the Regents tests in Algebra I, Living Environment, Physical Setting/Earth Science, and English Language Arts. Like the tests for grades 3-8, these tests must be administered in person, at school. Students who are learning remotely are not required to come to school for these tests. All other Regents tests are canceled. Every student in a Regents course with a cancelled test is exempt from the graduation requirements for that exam. Please contact your child’s school counselor for more information.
- For parents of in-person learners, our district procedure for refusal of the **3-8 ELA and/or math** exams remains the same: parents or guardians should contact their child’s principal **in advance** to discuss the specific needs of their child. Families who submit a refusal should plan to have their student(s) attend remotely for asynchronous learning

on the days of assessment. More information will be provided by classroom teachers for these students.

Testing days are as follows:

- Grades 3-5 English Language Arts: April 19th - Session 1 only
- Grades 6—8 English Language Arts: As per cohort schedule, April 19-21, 2021
- Grades 3-5 Math: May 4th - Session 1 only
- Grades 6—8 Math: As per cohort schedule, May 11-13, 2021
- Grade 4: June 7th Written
- Grade 8: As per cohort schedule, June 8-9 Written
- English Language Arts Regents: Thursday, June 17 at 8:00 a.m.
- Living Environment Regents: Tuesday, June 22 at 8:00 a.m.
- Algebra I Regents: Wednesday, June 23 at 8:00 a.m.
- Physical Setting/Earth Science Regents: Thursday, June 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Should the second waiver request from NYSED be approved by the federal government, we will notify you of what this means for graduation purposes and for the end of year schedule.