

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from Ballston Spa High School requires the fulfillment of course and examination requirements as outlined by the New York State Board of Regents. In accordance with state and district standards, the high school offers three possible diplomas (Local, Regents, and Advanced Regents), with the possibility of additional accolades, and for students with disabilities, a NYS CDOS¹ Commencement Credential.

Course Requirements

Students must earn the following credits to graduate with one of the three possible diplomas.

	Regents or Local	Advanced Regents
English	4	4
Social Studies	4	4
Mathematics	3	3
Science	3	3
Art/Music	1	1
Health	.5	.5
Physical Education	2	2
Foreign Language	1	3
Electives	3.5	1.5
Total	22	22

Examination Requirements

Students must earn a minimum grade of 65% for ALL the following Regents exams:

Regents Diploma / Local Diploma (5 exams)

- English Regents
- Social Studies Regents
- One Math Regents
- One Science Regents
- One additional assessment from options above, a CTE assessment, or CDOS Commencement Credential

Advanced Regents Diploma (8 exams)

- English Regents
- Global History Regents
- U.S. History Regents
- Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II Regents
- Two Science Regents

Notes:

¹Details about the NYS CDOS Commencement Credential on page 9.

²Examination requirements for a Local Diploma are the same as the Regents Diploma, except students with disabilities have the safety net option of scoring between 55-64 on all Regents exams. For students with disabilities, a score of 45-54 on a required Regents exam other than English and Math can be compensated with a score of 65% or above on another required Regents exam. In all cases, students must achieve at least a 55% on English and Math, and pass the course in the corresponding course.

^{2b}A student with a disability may appeal scores between 52 and 54 on up to two Regents exams in any discipline to graduate with a Local Diploma.

³Students who have a 65 course average, but whose highest score on the corresponding Regents examination after two attempts is below but within 3 points of a 65, may appeal to graduate. If a student appeals one exam, with a score ranging 62-64, the student may be eligible for a Regents Diploma using this lower score. However, if a student appeals two exams with scores ranging 62-64, the student may be eligible for a Local Diploma using this lower score. The appeals process is initiated with the assistance of the high school counselor.

NYS Testing

The New York State Regents examinations are administered annually in January, June and August. Students may retake tests at successive test dates to improve their scores. If a student retakes a Regents exam in August of the same school year in which the course was completed and earns a higher score, the final course average will be recalculated using the higher score. Should a student retake a Regents exam, only the highest Regents score will appear on the transcript. Fees to attend summer schools outside the district are the responsibility of the student.

Diploma Accolades

Honors

Students who earn an overall average of a 90% or higher on the five required exams needed for a Regents Diploma receive an Honors Distinction. Students who earn an overall average of a 90% or higher on all eight Regents exams needed for the NYS Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation receive an Honors Distinction.

Mastery in Math and/or Science

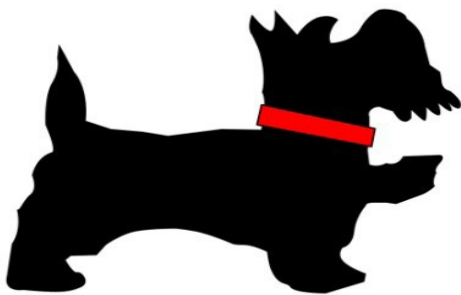
Students who earn an 85% or higher on three Math Regents exams will earn Mastery in Math on their diploma. Students who earn an 85% or higher on three Science Regents exams will earn Mastery in Science on their Diploma (note: one of the three must be the Living Environment exam).

Career & Technical Endorsement

Students who pass the four required Regents exams and pass the certification examination relative to their specific vocational field of study receive a CTE Endorsement Seal.

Seal of Biliteracy

This accreditation serves to recognize students who have met certain criteria that demonstrates their competency in a second language. With this diploma seal, students can show prospective employers and colleges that they have attained proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. Students who earn this seal will have an additional notation on their diploma and will be presented with a special cord to be worn with their graduation regalia to signify this accomplishment.



Seal of Civic Readiness

This accreditation serves to recognize students who have met certain criteria set by the State of New York that demonstrates their civic knowledge, skills and mindsets over the students' four years in high school. With this diploma seal, students can show prospective employers and colleges that they have attained a community-minded level of civic experiences. There are multiple pathways by which a student can earn the Seal of Civic Readiness. Social Studies teachers will work with students to complete Seal applications during junior and senior year. Students who earn this seal will have an additional notation on their diploma and in the graduation program as well as be presented with a special cord to be worn with their graduation regalia to signify this accomplishment.

Specific to Students with Disabilities Accolade

NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS): The NYS CDOS Commencement Credential is a credential recognized by the New York State Board of Regents as a certificate that the student has the knowledge and skills necessary for entry level employment. There are two options available for students to earn this credential.

- The student must have developed a career plan that includes documentation of the student's self-identified career interests, career-related strengths and needs, career goals, career and technical coursework, and the work-based learning experiences that the student plans to engage in to achieve those goals; and
- The student must have demonstrated achievement of the commencement level CDOS learning standards in the areas of career exploration and development, integrated learning and universal foundation skills; and
- The student must have successfully completed at least 216 hours of CTE coursework and/or work-based learning experiences (of which at least 54 hours must be in work-based learning experiences); and
- The student must have at least one completed employability profile that documents the student's employability skills and experiences, attainment of each of the commencement level CDOS learning strands, and as appropriate, attainment of technical knowledge and work-related skills, work experiences, performance on industry-based assessment, and other work-related academic achievements.