



Deputy Commissioner
Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Educational Technology

October 2014

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Ken Wagner 

SUBJECT: Transition to Common Core Regents Examinations in English Language Arts and Mathematics Original Issue Date: March 2013
Second Update Nov. 2013: See Highlighted Text
Third Update: May 2014: See Highlighted Text
Fourth Update: October 2014: See Highlighted Text

This memorandum provides information on the transition to Common Core Regents Exams in English Language Arts (ELA) and in mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II). Thank you for reaching out to the Department after the June 2014 Regents schedule was released. Your input will help ensure a smooth transition process for all students.

The Board of Regents adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics at its July 2010 meeting and incorporated New York-specific additions, creating the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), at its [January 2011 meeting](#).

In order to ensure adequate notice and time for students to be prepared to take the new Regents Exams measuring the CCLS, and based on feedback from the field, the Department plans to provide an overlap in the administration of the current Regents Exams measuring the 2005 Learning Standards with the new Regents Exams measuring the New York State Common Core Learning Standards and to provide a phased-in sequence for math. As a result, adjustments have been made to the June 2014 Regents Exam schedule and the CCLS exam implementation timeline (see Attachments A through C).

The anticipated changes are explained in this memorandum. The Department will propose regulations regarding these changes to the Board of Regents in spring/summer 2013. To assist schools in the transition, **Test Guides**, and sample questions **are available at <http://www.engageny.org/resource/regents-exams>** for the Common Core Regents Exams in ELA and Algebra I that will be administered for the first time in June 2014, **and for Geometry that will be administered for the first time in June 2015.**

ELA

Although not a “comprehensive” exam, the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) is designed to be administered at the end of Grade 11, similar to typical practice with the current Regents Comprehensive Exam in English.

All students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core), which is designed to be administered at the end of Grade 11, to meet graduation requirements.

All students who first entered Grade 9 prior to the 2013-14 school year may meet the requirements for graduation by enrolling in Common Core English courses and passing the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) or enrolling in English courses aligned to the 2005 Learning Standards and passing the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards), while that exam is still being offered.

For the **January 2014**, June 2014, August 2014, **January 2015, June 2015, and August 2015** administrations only, students enrolled in Common Core English courses may, at local discretion, take the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards) in addition to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core). If students take the old Regents Exam in addition to the new Regents Exam, the higher of the two scores may be used for local transcript purposes, and will be used for institutional accountability for the 2013-14 school year results. For purposes of Annual Professional Performance Reviews (“APPR”) conducted pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents (“regulations”), the higher of the two scores may also be used for the State growth and locally selected measures subcomponents, where such exams are allowable options under Education Law §3012-c. Any APPR plans in effect for the 2013-14 school year should reflect this local flexibility, as appropriate and allowable under Education Law §3012-c and the regulations.

See below for a summary.

Date of first entry into Grade 9	Course of Study	Required Assessment
2013-14 or thereafter	English Courses – Common Core	Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core)*
Prior to 2013-14	(a) English Courses – Common Core Or (at local discretion) (b) English Courses – 2005 Learning Standards	If (a), then Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core)* If (b), then Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards)

* For the **January 2014**, June 2014, August 2014, **January 2015, June 2015, and August 2015** administrations only, students enrolled in Common Core English courses may, at local discretion, take the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards) in addition to the Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core).

Attachment A provides additional information on the first administration of the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) in June 2014 and the last administration of the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards) in June 2016.

Mathematics

Any student who in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, begins his or her first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later must take the New York State CCLS Regents Exam in mathematics that corresponds to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction. Most typically, this first course will be Algebra I (Common Core).

Those students who began or will complete an Integrated Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2/Trigonometry course prior to the 2013-14 school year must take the corresponding Regents Exams aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005), while those exams are still being offered.

For the June 2014, August 2014, and January 2015 administrations only, students receiving Algebra I (Common Core) instruction may, at local discretion, take the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra (2005 Revised) in addition to the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core). If students take the old Regents Exam in addition to the new Regents Exam, the higher of the two scores may be used for local transcript purposes, and will be used for institutional accountability for the 2013-15 school year results. In addition, such students may meet the mathematics exam requirement for graduation by passing either of these exams. For purposes of APPRs conducted pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and the regulations, the higher of the two scores may also be used for the State growth and locally selected measures subcomponents, where such exams are allowable options under Education Law section 3012-c. Any APPR plans in effect for the 2013-14 school year should reflect this local flexibility, as appropriate and allowable under Education Law §3012-c and the regulations.

For the June 2015, August 2015, and January 2016 administrations only, students receiving Geometry (Common Core) instruction may, at local discretion, take the Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Revised) in addition to the Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core). If students take the old Regents Exam in addition to the new Regents Exam, the higher of the two scores may be used for local transcript purposes, and will be used for institutional accountability for the 2014-16 school year results. In addition, such students may meet the mathematics exam requirement for graduation by passing either of these exams. For purposes of APPRs conducted pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and the regulations, the higher of the two scores may also be used for the State growth and locally selected measures subcomponents, where such exams are allowable options under Education Law section 3012-c. Any APPR plans in effect for the 2014-15 school year should reflect this local flexibility, as appropriate and allowable under Education Law §3012-c and the regulations.

See below for a summary.

Students	Course of Study	Required Assessment
Students who in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, begin their first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later, as available	Math Courses – Common Core (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)	Regents Exam in Math (Common Core)*
Students who prior to the 2013-14 school year began or will complete a math course aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)	Math Courses – Revised 2005 (Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 / Trigonometry)	Regents Exams aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)

* For the June 2014, August 2014 and January 2015 administrations only, students receiving Algebra I (Common Core) instruction may, at local discretion, take the Integrated Algebra Regents (2005 Revised) **in addition to** the Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam. For the June 2015, August 2015, and January 2016 administrations only, students receiving Geometry (Common Core) instruction may, at local discretion, take the Geometry Regents (2005 Revised) **in addition to** the Common Core Geometry Regents Exam.

Attachment B provides additional information on the first administration of the new math Regents Exams (Common Core) and the last administration of the math Regents Exams [Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005)].

It is expected that the commencement-level math courses culminating in CCLS Regents Exams will be taught to most students in a sequential manner, beginning with Algebra I in the 2013-14 school year, followed by Geometry in 2014-15 and Algebra II in 2015-16. Consequently, and based on feedback from the field, the Department has decided to postpone the first administrations of the CCLS exams in Geometry and Algebra II until June 2015 and June 2016, respectively. The June 2014 exam schedule has been amended such that the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) will be administered on the morning of June 3 and no exams will be administered on June 4, as had originally been planned.

Schools that plan to offer Algebra I (Common Core) as a semester-long course during the 2013-14 school year are encouraged to do so during the second semester so that students can take the Algebra I (Common Core) exam when first available in June 2014 and immediately upon completion of the course.

Schools that plan to offer Geometry (Common Core) as a semester-long course during the 2014-15 school year are encouraged to do so during the second semester so that students can take the Geometry (Common Core) exam when first available in June 2015 and immediately upon completion of the course.

Student Records

Schools must maintain complete and accurate permanent records. Each time that a student takes a State exam at the scheduled time under proper supervision, the name of the exam, the date of administration, and the score must be entered in the student's permanent record, unless the score has been canceled because of fraud or misadministration. If a student who has failed an exam retakes the exam and achieves a passing score, the school is required to record only the higher score on the student's transcript. These transcript decisions should be made in consultation with the student, and the student's choice of score for official transcript purposes should be respected whenever possible.

Calculation of State Aid Allocations During Regents Exam Administration

June 3, 2014 and all of the remaining days on which Regents exams are administered, as shown on the June 2014 exam schedule, will be counted for the purpose of meeting the 180-days of instruction requirement for state aid purposes. If students are excused in order to provide adequate staffing and space for the administration of the exams on these days, schools are permitted to excuse students located in the same building who are not taking these exams. All possible efforts should be made to maintain a regular schedule for students who are not testing on June 3, given the proximity to final exams and the regular Regents testing period.

Field Testing

The Office of State Assessment has notified school principals or designated assessment directors regarding field testing of questions by students in May 2013 for the Regents Exam program. Schools must participate in field testing to ensure that the field tests are administered to a representative sample of students from across New York State. Field testing provides the data and feedback necessary to develop exams that are fair and valid. In New York State, Regents Exams are shared with the public after they have been administered. This makes it necessary to develop new secure exams for each administration. More field test forms than are typical will be necessary this May, in order to develop the new Common Core Regents Exams. The list of Regents field test assignments can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/fieldtest/>.

Please contact the Office of Curriculum & Instruction by e-mail at emscgradreq@nysed.gov for questions concerning graduation requirements and at emscurric@nysed.gov or by phone at 518-474-5922 for questions concerning curriculum. If you have any questions concerning the new Regents Exams, the exam schedule, or the implementation timeline, please contact the Office of State Assessment by e-mail at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov or by phone at 518-474-5900 or 5902. If you have questions concerning APPR plans, please contact educatoreval@nysed.gov.

Attachment A: Regents Examination in English Language Arts Implementation
Transition Timeline to Common Core Courses and Exams

Attachment B: Mathematics Regents Examinations Implementation Transition
Timeline to Common Core Courses and Exams

Attachment A

ELA Regents Examination Implementation Transition Timeline to Common Core Courses and Exams

Exam	January 2014	June 2014	August 2014	January 2015	June 2015	August 2015	January 2016	June 2016	August 2016
Regents Comp. Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X (Last admin.)	
Regents Exam in English Language Arts (Common Core)		X (First admin.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

- All students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) to meet graduation requirements.
- All students who first entered Grade 9 prior to the 2013-14 school year may meet the requirements for graduation by enrolling in Common Core English courses and passing the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core) or enrolling in English courses aligned to the 2005 Learning Standards and passing the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English (2005 Learning Standards), while that exam is still being offered.

Attachment B

Mathematics Regents Examinations Implementation Transition Timeline to Common Core Courses and Exams

	Integrated Algebra	Geometry	Algebra 2/ Trigonometry		Algebra I (Common Core)	Geometry (Common Core)	Algebra II (Common Core)
2013-14	X	X	X		X First admin June 2014		
2014-15	X Last admin January 2015	X	X		X	X First admin June 2015	
2015-16		X Last admin January 2016	X		X	X	X First admin June 2016
2016-17			X Last admin January 2017		X	X	X

- Any student who in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, begins his or her first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or thereafter must take the New York State CCLS mathematics Regents Exam that corresponds to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction. Most typically, this first course will be Algebra I (Common Core).
- Those students who began or will complete an Integrated Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2/Trigonometry course prior to the 2013-14 school year must take the corresponding Regents Exams aligned to the Mathematics Core Curriculum (Revised 2005), while those examinations are still being offered.