





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

TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Ken Wagner 

SUBJECT: Phase-in of the Common Core Regents Examinations

DATE: June 8, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

To update the P-12 Committee on the phase-in of the Common Core Regents Exams.

Reason(s) for Consideration

To provide the P-12 Committee with an update on the phase-in of the Common Core Regents Exams and on the first administration of the Regents Exam in Geometry (Common Core) in June 2015.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the P-12 Education Committee at its June 2015 meeting.

Procedural History

The Board of Regents adopted the Common Core standards for English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics in 2010. In January 2011, the Board adopted the NYS P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), which include the Common Core State Standards and a number of additional standards uniquely added by New York State.

Background Information

In June 2014, four years after the standards were adopted, the first Regents examinations measuring the CCLS in high school English language arts (ELA) and Algebra I were administered. The Regents Exam in Geometry (Common Core) was administered for the first time in June 2015, and the Regents Exam in Algebra II will be administered for the first time in June 2016. A comprehensive set of resources is available at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/regents-exams> to help educators, students and parents understand what to expect on the Common Core Regents Exams, including test design specifications, test guides, sample questions, and webcasts.

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 is providing 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 a phased-in sequence for math. At its November 2014 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a further adjustment to the transition plan, changing the last date of administration of the old Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra from January 2015 to June 2015.

ELA

For ELA, 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 and 2014-15 school year results.

Math

For Math, 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 is Algebra I (Common Core). Those students who began or completed 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). For the newly added June 2015 administration only, students receiving Algebra I (Common Core) instruction that **began** prior to September 2014 also 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 2013-14 and 2014-15 school year results. In addition, such students may meet the mathematics exam requirement for graduation by passing either of these exams.

First Administration of the Regents Exam in Geometry (Common Core)

Continuing with the roll-out of the new high school exams measuring the CCLS, the Regents Exam in Geometry (Common Core) was administered for the first time on June 2, 2015. 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 Learning Standards) **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 2014-15 and 2015-16 school year results. In addition, such students may meet the mathematics exam requirement for graduation by passing either of these exams.

A standard setting for the Regents Exam in Geometry (Common Core) will be conducted with the help of 27 New York State educators, who are representative of the State. During the standard setting, the field experts will make judgements about the content that students at various performance levels should know and make recommendations on the cut scores for these levels.

Full Common Core Implementation

Since 2011, the Department has posted graduation rate data that include the percentage of students in a high school cohort who graduated and scored 65 or higher on the Regents Exam in English and a Regents Exam in math, as well as the percentage of students in a cohort who graduated and scored at an aspirational college- and career-readiness level of at least 75 and 80 on these exams, respectively.

The Department is maintaining a similar distinction on Common Core Regents Exams between a score required to meet the State testing requirement for a Regents

Diploma and an aspirational score that demonstrates a student met Common Core course-level expectations. This distinction will help ensure fairness to students and a smooth transition as we continue the full implementation of the Common Core.

Specifically, the Class of 2022 (i.e., students who first enter grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year) is the first group of students required to pass Common Core Regents Exams (ELA and one exam in math) at the aspirational level, indicating that they fully met Common Core course-level expectations in order to satisfy the State testing requirement for a Regents Diploma, thus completing a 12-year phase-in of the standards. Prior to the Class of 2022, graduating students will not be required to demonstrate this level of mastery on Common Core Regents Exams. The Local Diploma safety net will remain available throughout the transition.

Scale Scores and Proficiency Levels for Common Core Regents Exams

The Department provides a raw score to scale score conversion chart for the Common Core Regents Exams, just as we do for the current Regents Exams. Just as with the current exams, the Common Core scale ranges from 0 - 100 and a score of 65 is required for Regents Diploma purposes. For the Common Core Regents Exams, the Department provides a chart with cut scores for five performance levels. The raw score to scale score and performance level conversion chart for the Common Core Regents Exam in Geometry will be available no later than Rating Day on Thursday, June 25, 2015. In addition, the Department will release the exam in its entirety shortly after Rating Day.

These five performance levels are summarized as follows: ¹

<u>Performance Levels on Common Core Regents Exams</u>
Level 5: Exceeds Common Core expectations
Level 4: Meets Common Core expectations (First required for Regents Diploma purposes with the Class of 2022)
Level 3: Partially meets Common Core expectations (Required for current Regents Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of students to attain Level 3 or above as do students who pass current Regents Exams (2005 Standards) with a score of 65 or above)

¹ The existing cut scores and performance levels will remain in place for Regents Exams that measure student progress on the 2005 Learning Standards.

**Level 2 (Safety Net): Partially meets Common Core expectations
(Required for Local Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of
students to attain Level 2 or above as do students who pass current Regents
Exam (2005 Standards) with a score of 55 or above)**

Level 1: Does not demonstrate Knowledge and Skills for Level 2

As described in the table above, the percentage of students who score at Performance Level 2 and above and at Performance Level 3 and above on the Common Core Regents Exams are comparable to those percentages of students who scored at a 65 and 55 and above, respectively, on the Regents Exams based on the 2005 Standards. This ensures fairness to students and a smooth transition as we continue the full implementation of the Common Core through the Class of 2022. Cut scores for the remaining performance levels will be determined by educator judgment of the rigor required by the standards.