

Students will not have to make up Regents tests

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Students who were scheduled to take Regents exams this June will not have to make up the missed tests, the New York State Education Department announced Tuesday.

The June Regents exams have been canceled due to the havoc wreaked on the education system by the coronavirus outbreak.

“Students across New York State can breathe a collective sigh of relief,” Robert Schneider, executive director of the New York State School Boards Association, said in a statement.

“No student should be denied course credit or a high school diploma or otherwise penalized due to these extraordinary circumstances.” The decision to cancel Regents, announced Monday at the April Board of Regents meeting, was the preferred option of most New York educators, but it raised big questions about what would happen to students’ eligibility to graduate.

Under normal circumstances, New York students have to pass five of the exams to earn a diploma.

Now, students in grades 8-12 who are enrolled in a Regents course will be exempt from the test as long as they earn diploma credit in the class by June 2020.

If a student does not earn credit in the class by June 2020 but takes summer instruction and earns that credit by August, they will still be exempt from the Regents exam. Students who earned course credit in a previous year but did not pass the exam and were planning to take it this June are also exempt.

Students in seventh grade, who can enroll in Regents- level courses but cannot earn diploma credit, will be exempt as long as they meet the

the right ones for New York’s students,” Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa said. “These are extraordinary decisions for an unprecedented time, and we thank our school communities for their support and continuing dedication.”

Other options for high school diplomas

The state’s guidance also provides relief to students on a different route to a diploma. New York allows students alternate pathways to a diploma that require them to pass four Regents exams and complete a fifth set of requirements.

Students who were set to take a state-approved alternate assessment in June, for example, a Language Other Than English assessment, are exempt as long as they have received credit in the applicable course.

Those who were working towards an occupational studies or career and technical education diploma can be granted a waiver from completing the required 216 hours of technical instruction and work-based learning, as long as they have demonstrated proficiency in their fields.

Students who were earning a CTE technical endorsement, which requires a three-part assessment before they earn their diploma, can have the requirement waived on a case-by-case basis.

Students with disabilities who can earn a local diploma with lower score on the Regents exams will be considered to have met the minimum score requirement on the missed exams.

The College Board, which administers the Advanced Placement exams, is planning to offer their assessments online this spring. The May exams scheduled for the International Baccalaureate Program have been canceled, but students will be able to make them up in November.

The state will not make decisions about a high school’s accountability status based on the performance of the 2016-17 freshman class.

class standards. The exempted exams will not appear on students’ transcripts.

All schools and districts will have the same score on their report card for the 2020-21 school year as they did in 2019-20.

The canceled Regents will not affect students’ ability to earn a diploma with an advanced designation, which requires eight Regents exams.

For students working towards an advanced designation with honors, which requires an average score of 90 or higher on all Regents exams, the exempted tests will not be counted in their average score.

For students who want to make up missed exams, districts are instructed to give them an opportunity to do so. There is also a Regents examination period scheduled to take place in August, but the state has not yet decided whether those exams will go ahead.

“In times of crisis difficult decisions must be made and the Board of Regents knows these are ultimately