



GRADUATION MEASURES IN NEW YORK STATE

Winter 2020 Regional Information Meeting



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

AGENDA FOR THIS REGIONAL MEETING

- **Greetings and Introductions: Opening video from Board of Regents Chancellor, Betty Rosa**
- **Remarks from Local Board of Regents Member**
- **Power Point: Graduation Measures in New York State**
- **Group Discussions: Stakeholder feedback on the Five Guiding Questions**
- **Sharing of Ideas**
- **Closing Remarks: District BOCES Superintendent or Big 5 Representative & Local Regent**

RE-EXAMINING GRADUATION MEASURES IN NEW YORK STATE

- Chancellor Rosa [committed to rethinking New York's graduation measures in February 2019](#) and in July 2019, the Board of Regents announced it will create a Blue Ribbon Commission to review the State's high school graduation measures and reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State.
- The Commission will examine what a State diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in New York State. The Commission will consider whether adding other measures of achievement could better serve New York's diverse student population as indicators of what they know and if they are career and college ready.

BOARD OF REGENTS CHANCELLOR BETTY A. ROSA VIDEO



WHY ARE THE REGENTS REVIEWING GRADUATION MEASURES?

To Foster Equity in Education for All New York Students:

- The number one priority of the Board of Regents and the Department is **to create equity in education for all New York State students.**
- The graduation rate continues to slowly edge up, but **gaps in achievement persist** – gaps that separate students of color, students with disabilities, English language learners, and low-income students from their peers who are white and attend school in low-need districts.
- The system is not working for everyone, and too many students - particularly our most vulnerable students - are leaving high school without a diploma. New York and other states are grappling with graduation rates that are improving too slowly, if at all, as well as **achievement gaps that reflect persistent opportunity gaps.**

To Ensure Our Students are Engaged in School and Prepared for the 21st Century Workforce:

- It's about ensuring that what students are learning is relevant to them, useful to society and prepares them for college, careers and civic engagement.
- With more opportunities for students to focus on what interests them, the more engaged they will be in school and better positioned to be successful in life.
- Students need to be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities of the 21st Century workforce, as well as face its demands and challenges.

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON GRADUATION MEASURES

Goal:

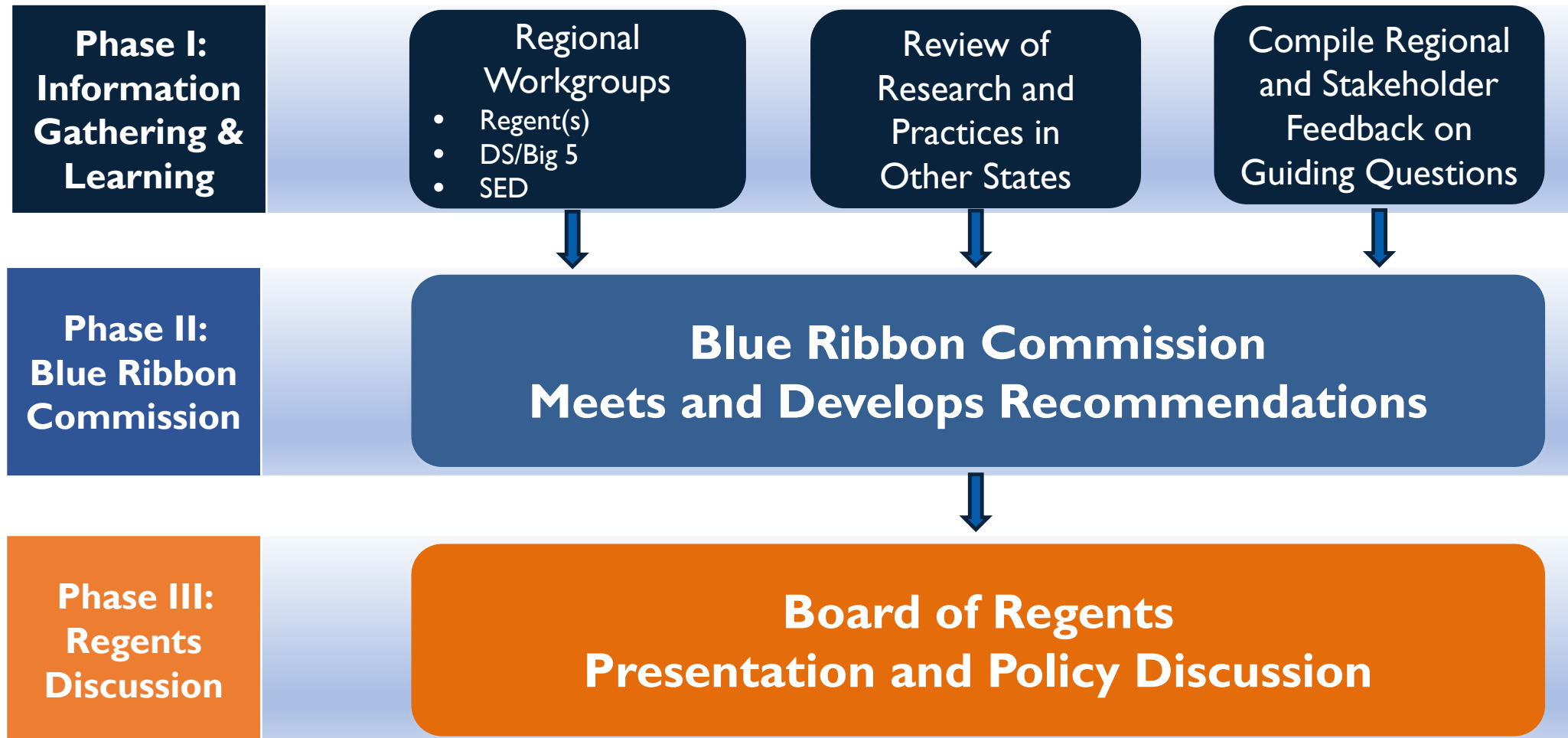
To undertake a thoughtful and inclusive process to reaffirm what a New York State high school diploma means and what it ought to signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all New York State children.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Commission is to review research, practice and policy and to gather input from across the state, to help inform recommendations to:

- reconsider current diploma requirements;
- ensure all students have access to multiple graduation measures; and
- ensure a transition plan allows time to prepare for and implement any changes.

PHASES OF WORK



DRAFT TIMELINE

Phase I: Information Gathering & Learning

- **November 2019 to April 2020:**
 - Literature review of research and practices in other states. Report to Board in Spring 2020
 - Regional workgroups hold meetings beginning in January to gather feedback from across the state.
- **Summer 2020:** Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and draft meeting schedule.
- **Summer 2020:** Compile Regional Meeting feedback.

Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission

- **September 2020:** Commission's first meeting – the BRC convenes and defines the scope of its work.
- **October 2020:** Blue Ribbon Commission second meeting to identify priority areas and a framework for moving forward. Establish sub-groups for priority areas.
- **November 2020 – February 2021:** Sub-groups meet.
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- **Summer – Fall 2021:** Sub-groups advance recommendations to the BRC.
- **Fall 2021 – Winter 2022:** The BRC finalizes recommendations and a report is prepared.

Phase III: Regents Discussion

- **Winter 2022:** The Blue Ribbon Commission's final report is presented to the Board of Regents for consideration.

PHASE I: INFORMATION GATHERING & LEARNING

REGIONAL MEETINGS & FEEDBACK



- **Regional Meetings in Each Regent Judicial District:**
 - At least one meeting in each Judicial District to be held January to April 2020
 - Outreach to a vast array of regional stakeholders and organizations to ensure every region is part of the conversation
 - Format of meetings will provide for discussions to bring ideas forward in a concise, consistent and thoughtful way
 - Ideas and information will be captured in each regional area
- **Public Comment Email Box:**
 - Establish public comment email box for those who wish to contribute thoughts and ideas but cannot make a meeting

GradMeasures@nysed.gov

NEW YORK STATE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS: CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

Student Choice in Course Selection

- In most disciplines, students choose the courses they want to take.

Required Courses

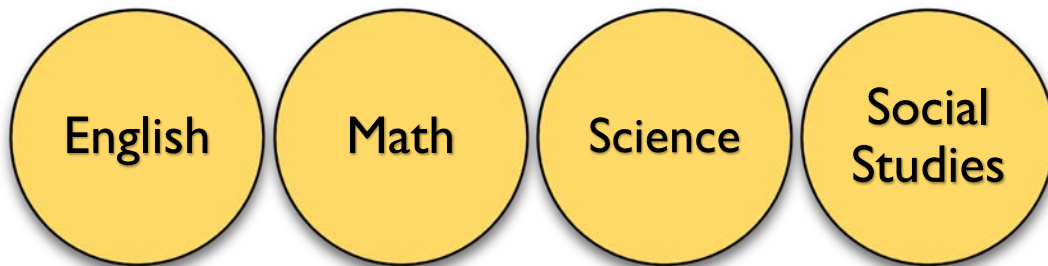
- Health (½ credit required)
- Global Studies and Geography (2 credits required)
- United States History (1 credit required)
- Participation in Government (½ credit required)
- Economics (½ credit required)

	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS
English	4
Social Studies <small>(see note #6)</small> <i>Distributed as follows:</i> U.S. History (1) Global History and Geography (2) Participation in Government (½) Economics (½)	4
Science <i>Distributed as follows:</i> Life Science (1) Physical Science (1) Life Science or Physical Science (1)	3
Mathematics	3
Languages Other than English (LOTE)	1(**)
Visual Art, Music, Dance, and/or Theater	1
Physical Education <i>(participation each semester)</i>	2
Health	0.5
Electives	3.5
Total	22

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS MULTIPLE (4+1) PATHWAYS

4

All students must pass
4 required assessments
(one in each discipline)



+

|

Pathways

STEM

Humanities

Arts

LOTE

CTE

CDOS

If students are not able to earn a passing score of 65 on Regents exams, they may be eligible for:

- Appeals
- Safety Nets
- Superintendent Determination

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

LOTE: Language Other Than English

CTE: Career & Technical Education

CDOS: Career Development and Occupational Studies

TYPES OF DIPLOMAS

Local

- 22 units of credit
- Used appeals, safety nets to meet assessment requirements
- OR Superintendent Determination of a Local Diploma

Regents

- 22 units of credit
- Earned passing scores (65+)* on all required assessments (4 + 1)

Regents with Advanced Designation

- 22 units of credit
- Earned passing score (65+) on all required assessments (7 + 1)
 - Additional exams required
 - +2 math
 - +1 science
- Completed a sequence

* A student can appeal one Regents exam score within 5 points of passing and still receive a Regents Diploma

SEALS & ENDORSEMENTS

Local Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Regents Diploma



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement

Regents with Advanced Designation



Technical Endorsement



Seal of Biliteracy



Honors Endorsement



Mastery in Mathematics and/or Science

EXITING CREDENTIALS THAT ARE NOT DIPLOMAS



Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential

- Available to Students with a Disability assessed using the NYS Alternate Assessment
- Must be accompanied by documentation of the students' skills and strengths and levels of independence in academic, career development and foundation skills needed for post-school living, learning and working
- Students must have completed:
 - ≥ 12 years of schooling (excluding kindergarten)
 - the school year in which they attained the age of 21



CDOS Commencement Credential

- Available to all students
- Students attempt, but do not successfully complete all the New York State diploma requirements
- Students must complete all the CDOS Commencement Credential requirements

SHIFTING LANDSCAPES ACROSS STATES

- States are modifying or adding to the number of options available to students to graduate from high school.
- States are making adjustments to their assessments required for high school graduation.
- States are exploring innovative approaches to high school pathways (e.g., competency-based diplomas, the use of performance-based assessments, capstone projects and the inclusion of work-based learning or other experiential learning opportunities).

Source: Achieve College- and Career-Ready Student Outcomes Data Explorer, September 2019
<https://highschool.achieve.org/college-and-career-ready-student-outcomes-data-explorer>

STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: COURSEWORK

- Required number of courses in each content area varies considerably across states and districts (e.g., two credits vs. four credits of mathematics)
- Specificity of courses varies considerably across states and districts (e.g., three credits of science vs. biology, chemistry, physics)

Source: Achieve Graduation Requirements Data Explorer, Class of 2019 Options
<https://highschool.achieve.org/graduation-requirements-data-explorer>

STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS



Assessments do not have consequences for students related to course grades or graduation.



Assessment measure serves as the final exam for a course, and contributes 5-30% to the student's final course grade.



Students must achieve an overall minimum score across two or more assessments to graduate. Students may offset lower performance on one test with higher performance on another.



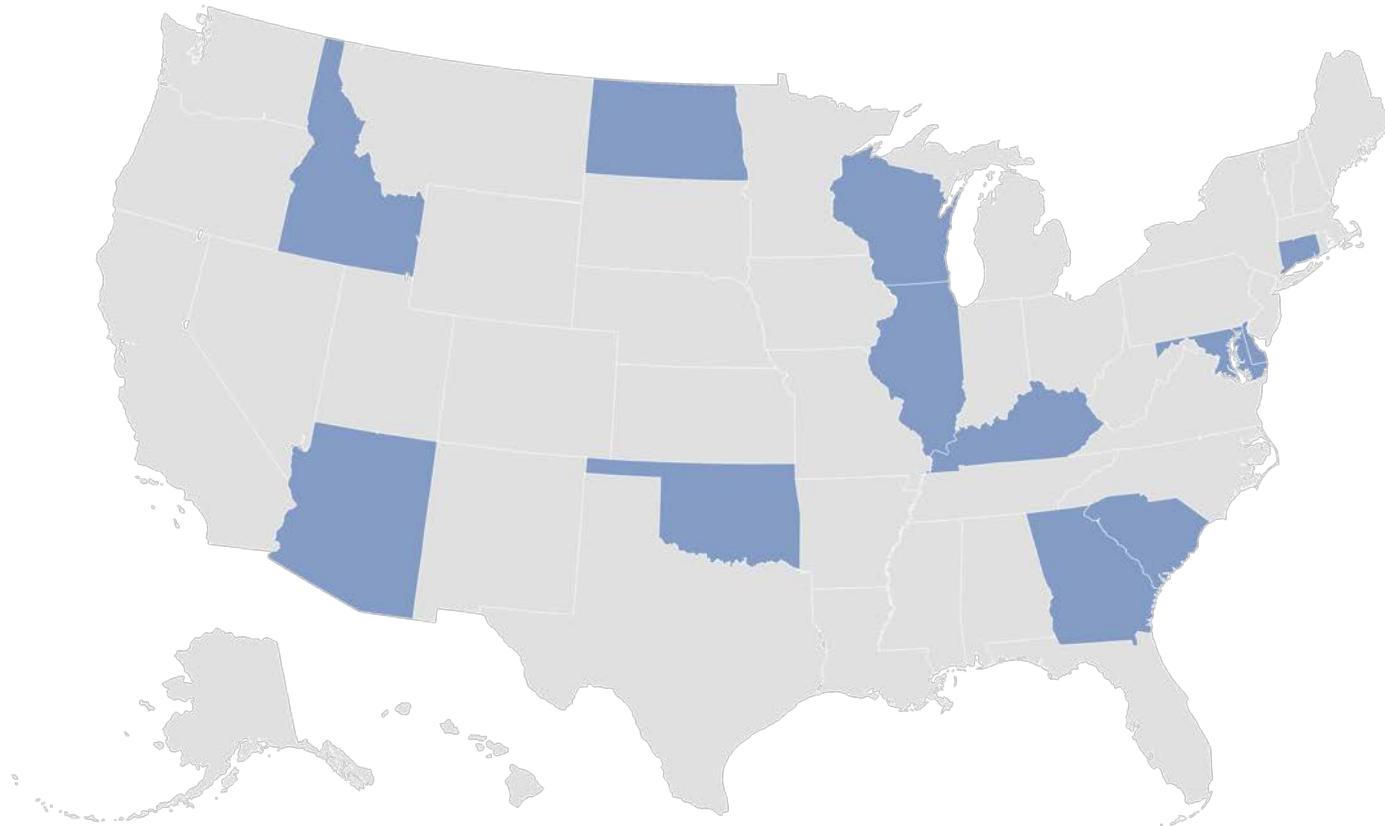
Students must pass one or more assessment(s) to graduate. (Includes NY)

STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES AND CAPSTONES

- Learning and leadership experiences include extended work-based learning; service learning; or co-curricular activity, such as participation in state career technical student organization competitions.
- Twelve states include a Co-Curricular Learning and Leadership Experience measure in their state or federal accountability systems, often as part of a CCR “menu.”
- Fewer than 10 states include a capstone experience, service learning, portfolio or similar component as part of their graduation requirements.

Source: Making Career Readiness Count 3.0: <https://www.achieve.org/publications/making-career-readiness-count-30>

CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES INCLUDED IN HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS



Source: Making Career Readiness Count 3.0
https://www.achieve.org/files/2019%20Assessments%20Brief_final_1.pdf

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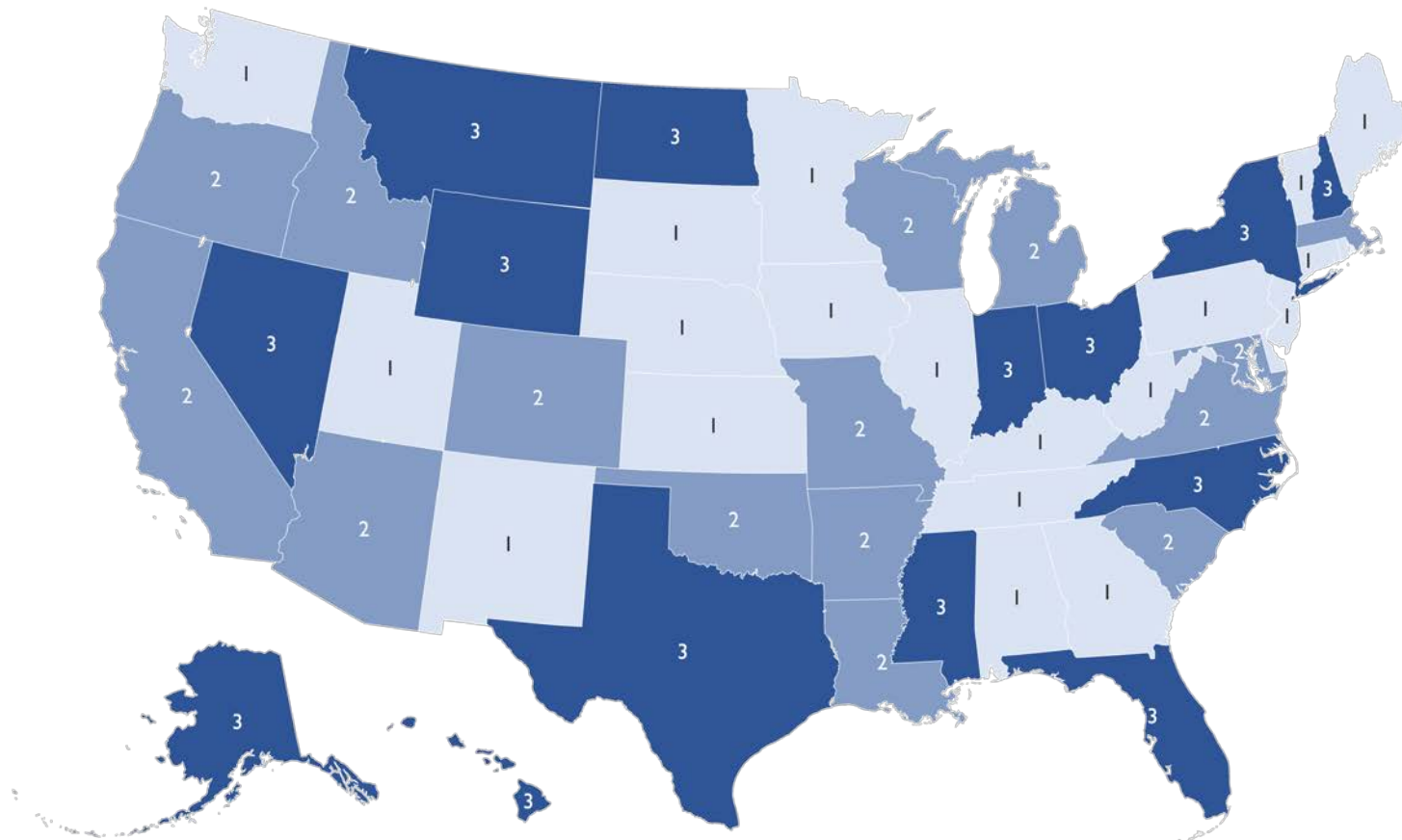
STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: CREDENTIALS

- Graduation options* take many forms, including endorsements, seals, pathways, and diplomas.
- States offer more than 115 different high school graduation options for students.
- For the Class of 2019:
 - 14 states had three or more graduation options.
 - 15 states had two graduation options.
 - 21 states and DC had one state-defined graduation option.

*Graduation options do not mean exit exams. Rather they include endorsements, seals, pathways, and diplomas

Source: Achieve College- and Career-Ready Student Outcomes Data Explorer, September 2019
<https://highschool.achieve.org/college-and-career-ready-student-outcomes-data-explorer>

STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: CREDENTIALS (CONT.)



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PHASE I: INFORMATION GATHERING & LEARNING

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- Break into groups of 8-10 to discuss the 5 guiding questions.
- Each group should assign the following roles:
 - a recorder to take notes and record the feedback for SED via the laptop at the table;
 - a facilitator to lead the table discussion and keep track of time; and
 - a spokesperson who will report out your group's key idea.

PHASE I: INFORMATION GATHERING & LEARNING

GROUP DISCUSSIONS - continued

- Each group should take time to discuss and provide feedback to the Department on each of the 5 guiding questions by entering the information into the questions form on the laptop provided at each table.
- At the end of the group discussion time, each group will choose one important idea that their spokesperson will share with the entire group for no more than 2 minutes.

PHASE I: INFORMATION GATHERING & LEARNING

REGIONAL MEETING GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What do we want students to know and to be able to do before they graduate?
2. How do we want students to demonstrate such knowledge and skills?
3. How do you measure learning and achievement (as it pertains to the answers to #2 above) to ensure they are indicators of high school completion?
4. How can measures of achievement accurately reflect the skills and knowledge of our special populations, such as students with disabilities and English language learners?
5. What course requirements or examinations will ensure that students are prepared for college and careers or civic engagement?

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GRADUATION MEASURES WEBSITE

[Graduation Measures Webpage](http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures)
www.nysed.gov/grad-measures

Graduation Measures

The Board of Regents and State Education Department have undertaken a thoughtful and inclusive review of the State high school graduation measures. Our ultimate goal is to reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State and what that diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students in New York State.

Regional Meeting Schedule



Video: Regional Meetings



Recent News

JANUARY 13, 2020

Board of Regents and Education Department Announce First Regional Information Meetings to Discuss Review of Graduation Measures in New York State

The meetings are an integral part of Phase I in the Board and Department's review of graduation measures.

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Board of Regents and NYSED Launch Phase I of Review of New York State Graduation Measures

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Board of Regents Presentations



Chancellor's On Board Columns



[CURRENT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS](#)

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CONCLUSION

- [Participant Exit Survey](#) will be emailed to you. Please let us know your thoughts on the process for today's meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK!