

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

106 Washington Avenue, Plainview, New York 11803

www.pobschools.org



December 5, 2017

We would like to express our concern regarding graduation requirements in New York State, which place an excessive focus on the results of high-stakes standardized tests. We are one of only two states in the nation that require five or more exit exams to graduate high school. We believe that tying graduation to Regents exams will negate years of success in rigorous course work completed in the classroom, denying some deserving students their right to a valid, viable high school diploma.

Because of the sharp increase in the difficulty of new Regents exams, we believe these guidelines have a severe negative impact to both students with disabilities and English as a New Language (ENL) students. They are also harmful to general education students who wish to pursue a vocational path or are simply poor test takers. For these populations, the possibility that they may not receive a valid diploma because they can't pass Regents exams - in spite of successful results in the classroom - creates unnecessarily high levels of stress and anxiety, diminishes confidence, and leaves some feeling as if their time and effort are being wasted.

Furthermore, the CDOS, which is available to those who do not pass Regents exams, exclude these students from obtaining civil service jobs and joining the military. These credentials are also not widely recognized by businesses. This limits the chances of success beyond high school by significantly hindering opportunities for gainful employment in the future.

Although we see the value in ensuring that all students are educated in accordance with the current standards, we strongly urge you to consider a graduation pathway that is not coupled with Regents exams. We believe this pathway should be available to ALL students, not just those students with disabilities or ENLs.

Sincerely,

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