



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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April 7, 2020

Dear Port Washington Families,

First and foremost, if you are a senior on track to graduate, take a deep breath... you will be graduating!

As a follow-up to my letter yesterday regarding the cancellation of June Regents Examinations, the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents issued modified guidance on graduation and course requirements for students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-2020 school year. Below is a summary on the new guidance from the state, applicable to all students who intended to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents examinations:

Students who would have taken one or more Regents examinations during the June 2020 examination period, will be exempted from taking those Regents exams in order to be issued a diploma. **To qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:**

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course and earn the course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to an applicable Regents examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents examination but intended to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

Additional information on the NYSED's new guidelines can be reviewed on their website at: <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-issues-guidance-graduation-and-course-requirement-changes-due>

If you are currently a senior and have not passed the five required Regents examinations, please reach out to your guidance counselor who will be able to assist you in understanding what you need to do to earn a diploma.

Two specific questions that have been raised regarding our seniors scheduled to graduate this June are:

- **Will seniors on track to receive a diploma with Advanced Regents Designation still receive that specific diploma?** The answer is yes, so long as all other requirements to receive the Advanced Regents Designation have been met at the time of graduation.
- **Can seniors still earn the mastery in science or math endorsement on their diploma?** The answer is yes. Seniors who are exempted from a math and/or a science Regents examination and have passed at least two additional Regents exams in math with scores of 85 or above, or two additional Regents exams in science with an 85 or above, would be entitled to a mastery in math and/or science on their diploma.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your child's schooling, please do not hesitate to reach out to the respective building principal or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hynes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MJH/ze/da