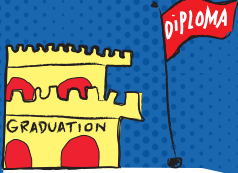


Hey! Are you in 9th grade? Or, are you a senior in high school struggling to get a diploma?

# LEVEL UP

## THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CHALLENGE



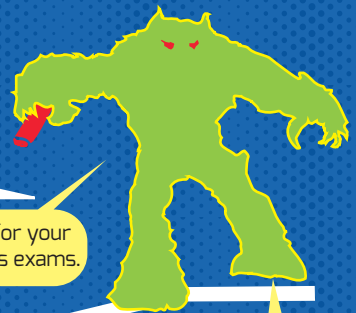
**GOAL:**  
To graduate from high school with a diploma.

**KEEP GOING!**  
You have the right to stay in school until the year you turn 21.

**LOOK OUT!**  
Don't fail classes you can't make up in summer!

"Pass all your classes in 9th grade or else you will be set back and have to take summer school or repeat classes in the school year."  
-Carmen Acosta, guidance counselor

Study for your Regents exams.



Maintain passing grades of 65 throughout all of high school. Higher grades early on can lead to more options for college and scholarships.



Students with disabilities: Seek help from a Transition Coordinator when you turn 15.



**SHOW UP!**  
If you miss 20 days of school a year, you might not be able to graduate on time.

IEP student

ELL

General Education



If you are a student with a disability assigned a Section 504 plan or **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**, or if you are an **English Language Learner (ELL)**, you can get extra help on your exams. Talk to your principal to find out more.

If you are not a student with disabilities or an ELL, you're a **General Education** student.

CUP



# LEVEL UP



There are lots of rules about what you need to graduate from high school, and they aren't the same for everyone. What credits do you need? What Regents exams do you need to take? With all of these confusing graduation rules, where do you start?

Students from Stephanie Baker and Mary Ann Keeler's Field Studies class at Lyons Community School in East Williamsburg worked with CUP teaching artist Max Allbee to clear up what you need for graduation. To investigate, we talked to a guidance counselor, a college and career readiness coordinator, and students in our school. We made this guide to explain how to get your diploma.


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There are three types of diplomas you can get...

# REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from high school!

## REGENTS DIPLOMA

**CREDITS:**  
You need 44 credits or more.  
To get them, hit the yellow credits ships (  )


**REGENTS EXAMS:**  
You need a 65 or more on all your exams.  
To pass, hit the orange Regents exams ship (  )


## ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA

**CREDITS:**  
You need 44 credits or more.  
To get them, hit the yellow credits ships (  )  
AND the yellow star ships (  )

**REGENTS EXAMS:**  
You need a 65 or more on all your exams.  
To pass, hit the orange Regents exams ship (  )  
AND the orange star ships (  )

## LOCAL DIPLOMA

(primarily for students with disabilities)  
**CREDITS:**  
You need 44 credits or more.  
To get them, hit the yellow credits ships (  )

**REGENTS EXAMS (Safety Net option):**  
If you are a student with disabilities, you need a 55 on all 5 exams OR a 45 on 2 of your exams, with a 65 or more on the rest.  
To pass, hit the orange Regents exams ship (  )

These are the number of credits you need for each subject. Different classes are worth different credits. Ask your counselor to find out how many classes you need to take.

Physical Education  
4

Science

Science

6

Language other than English (LOTE)  
2

LOTE

REGENTS EXAMS

Math

Science

Math

3

Electives  
7

Health  
1

8

English

US History

Math

Global History

Social

8

Studies

English

Math  
6

Arts  
2

If you score a 62-64 on ONE of your Regents exams, you can talk to your principal to change your grade. That's called an appeal, and if it's accepted, you can get a Regents diploma.

If you are a general education student and score a 62-64 on TWO of your Regents exams, you can talk to your principal to change your grade. That's called an appeal, and if it's accepted, you can get a Local diploma.

If you are an ELL or student with disabilities taking Regents exams, you can ask your school for help like getting extra test time or a separate testing location. ELLs can also ask for translation services or bilingual dictionaries.

## ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

NYC has alternative schools you can apply for. Some have different requirements for graduation. They might be a good fit for you if you're worried you won't be able to get a diploma.

**Transfer schools** are small schools for students who have had at least one year of high school, and have dropped out or fallen behind in credits.

**International schools** serve newly arrived ELLs. They are part of a network that integrate different language levels in all classes and use project-based learning.

**Consortium schools** use Performance Based Assessments like essays, research projects, debates, and math problem applications instead of standardized testing. You still need to take the English Regents exam, and get 44 credits.

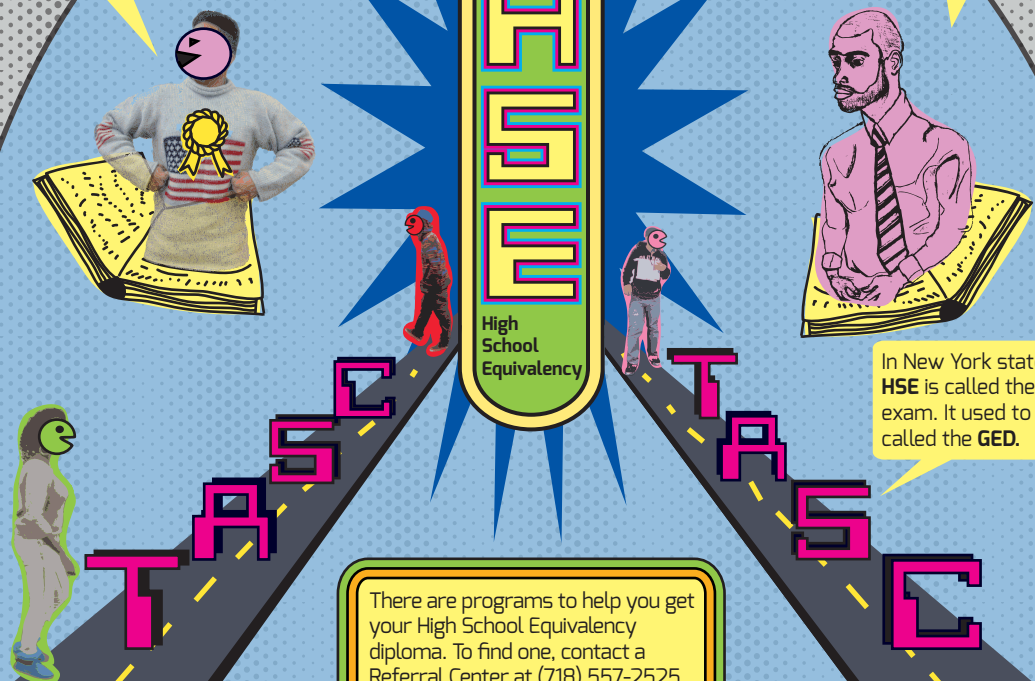
Science  
6

# ALTERNATIVES

To a Regents or Local diploma.

If you are struggling to finish high school with a diploma, an alternative is to get a **High School Equivalency diploma**, or **HSE diploma**, by taking an exam called the **Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)**.

"The HSE is like a pit stop in your road to success. Afterward you can move forward and go to college."  
-Karim French, *Pathways to Graduation*



In New York state, the **HSE** is called the **TASC** exam. It used to be called the **GED**.

There are programs to help you get your High School Equivalency diploma. To find one, contact a Referral Center at (718) 557-2525 or visit [nyc.doe](http://nyc.doe) for more info.

**The Department of Education (DOE)** provides HSE programs for students 17-21 years old.

**Community Based Organizations (CBO's)** provide adult HSE programs for students older than 21.



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**The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)** is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement particularly among historically underrepresented communities. To learn more, visit [welcometoCUP.org](http://welcometoCUP.org)

**City Studies** is a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy. CUP partners with public high schools and afterschool programs on project-based curricula that use design and art as tools to research the city.

**Lyons Community School** is a small school in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn, committed to providing a broad, stimulating experience in the liberal arts, and preparing students for college, healthy adulthood, and life-long learning. To learn more, visit [lyonscommunityschool.org](http://lyonscommunityschool.org)

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