

Administration of New Regents Examinations

A new Regents Examination is developed when there are new academic learning standards, a revision to the learning standards, or a change in test design. Whenever a newly developed exam is administered for the first time, a standard setting meeting must be held to determine the levels of expectation (i.e., cut scores) for classification into each performance level.

Why do new Regents Exams have to be administered early to students?

The early administration of new exams ensures that the raw-to-scale score conversion charts can be prepared and posted no later than the end of exam week in June (Rating Day). The standard setting and score collection process, managed by NYSED’s contractor, is essential to ensuring equitable results for each new Regents Exam. The participation of schools is vital to this work to ensure that the resulting cut scores are representative of students from across the state.

NYSED continually strives to balance placing additional responsibilities on selected schools with the need to collect and analyze student assessment data. To minimize the burden, NYSED selects the fewest number of schools needed to ensure a representative sample of students. Moreover, schools are never selected to participate in more than one score collection per year.

What does a score collection involve?

Assessment data is collected from a representative sample of NYS students immediately following the administration of any new Regents Exam. Score collection includes the following steps by schools:

- **Administration:** All schools administer the new Regents exam to students on the scheduled day.
- **Scoring:** Schools selected for score collection score the constructed response questions immediately following the test administration.
- **Submission:** Selected schools package and ship their answer sheets to NYSED’s contractor.

After the sampled schools’ answer sheets are received, the contractor scans them and analyzes the data for each test question as well as for the full exam. The Commissioner of Education reviews and approves the performance level cut scores based on educator recommendations from the standard setting meeting. This allows for the creation of the conversion charts which are released by NYSED and applied to student results across the state to yield final exam scores. Schools in the selected sample receive their students’ final scores back from NYSED’s contractor by the Rating Day. The Regional Information Centers (RICs) and Large City Scan Centers also receive this information.

Due to the steps involved and the critical need for quality control, the process of collecting student assessment data from selected schools and producing the conversion charts typically takes 2–2½ weeks.

New Regents Exams that will require early administration, score collection, and standard setting:

2024–2025

- Regents Examination in Life Science: Biology (June 10, 2025);
- Regents Examination in Earth and Space Sciences (June 10, 2025); and,
- Regents Examination in Geometry (June 11, 2025).

2025–2026

- Regents Examination in Algebra II (June 2026);
- Regents Examination in Chemistry (June 2026);
- Regents Examination in Physics (June 2026); and
- Regents Examination in ELA (June 2026).

What is standard setting?

Standard setting is the formal process for establishing the scores on a test that represent different performance levels in terms of the content being evaluated.

For each new Regents exam, a panel of NYS teachers are asked to make content-based recommendations for what they believe would be the minimally acceptable student achievement (i.e., cut scores) for classification into each performance level.