ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Graduation Diplomas

The South Seneca School District offers three types of graduation diplomas: Local, Regents, and Regents with Advanced Designation. Each one has different requirements which must be met if your child is to graduate. Some of these requirements are mandated by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and others by our own Board of Education. You should meet with your child's counselor every spring to make certain that s/he has selected the necessary courses to meet these requirements. Students must pass five Regents examinations in order to receive their diplomas, including the Local Diploma. In order to receive a diploma, a student must pass the Comprehensive Regents Exam in English, Global Studies and Geography, United States History and Government, at least one Math Regents exam and at least one Science Regents exam. For a student to receive a Regents Diploma, a student must pass all five Regents exams mentioned above with a score of 65 or higher. For a student to receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation they must pass all of the exams mentioned above with a 65 or better plus four additional regents exams: Geometry, Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry and two additional Regents Science exams with a 65 or better. The third-year foreign-language Regents is also required with a passing grade of 65 or better unless the language requirement is substituted with a five-unit sequence in vocational education, business, art or technology. Course requirements must be completed at the Regents level. The core Science requirement includes Regents Biology (Living Environment) for all diploma levels. Students receiving grades less than 65 but greater than 55 on any of the above Regents exams will receive a local diploma. This applies to students of the graduating class of 2012 and beyond.

Entering Freshman Class	Local Diploma Requirements	Regents Diploma Requirements	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation Requirements
2008 Class of 2012 and beyond	Local Diploma No Longer Given*	Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams. Earn 24 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 8 required Regents exams. Earn 24 units of credit.

*Students entering Grade 9 in September 2011 and thereafter will not be afforded the option of a local diploma unless they receive special education services or a 55 pass option is cited on a 504 accommodation plan.

Graduation Requirements

CORE
4 units of English
4 units of Social Studies
2 units of Physical Education
3 units of Science
3 units of Math
1 unit of Art or Music
1 unit of Language other than English
½ unit of Health

PLUS: Option I
Two 3-unit sequences in any 2 of the following: math, science, art, occupational education, music, Second language

OR Option II
One 3-unit sequence in math, science, art, occupational education, music, second language AND
One 5-unit sequence in English or Social Studies

OR Option III

One 5-unit sequence in math, science, art, music, occupational education, second language.

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Total 24 credits

Participation in the graduation ceremony is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the above requirements.

Grade level criteria:

It is the responsibility of the building principal to determine student placement in grade levels. A student will be promoted to the next grade level based on the accumulation of Carnegie units. A full year course equals one unit. A half-year course equals half a unit. Physical Education, Band, Chorus, Swing Choir and Jazz Band equal half a unit.

For placement in 10th grade: 5.5 units

For placement in 11th grade: 12 units

For placement in 12th grade: 17.5 units and enrolled in a sufficient number of courses to qualify for graduation in either January or June of the current school year.

To receive credit for any course in grades 9-12, a student must:

1. Have an average of 65 and pass the Regents exam (if offered) for Regents credit.
2. Take a final exam regardless of his/her average.

A student who successfully completes an alternative course of instruction as a result of an extended absence for medical reasons will receive credit. If a student needs long-term medical care, a tutor will be provided, and the days will be counted as days of attendance. A student who is assigned to the Alternative Classroom will not be counted as absent. A student who is absent as a result of a school - sponsored activity will receive credit provided the student makes up missed assignments.

Early graduation:

Any student who has met all requirements listed under "academic information" will be eligible to receive a high school diploma. Any request for early graduation must be made in writing to the Building Principal at least six months prior to the date of graduation.

Graduation:

To be eligible for participating in the graduation ceremony held in June, a student must meet the criteria for the awarding of a diploma. Participation in the ceremony signifies the completion of the requirements for the awarding of a diploma.

Honor Roll:

The high school has established two levels of recognition, High Honors (average of 90 percent or above) and Honors (average of 85 to 89 percent), for noteworthy academic achievement. Such achievement will be recognized four times a year in conjunction with the quarterly report card grades. Recognition for academic achievement will be given to students who:

1. Is enrolled in a minimum of courses equivalent to six credits, including Physical Education, during the marking period.
2. Has received no grade of incomplete on the quarterly report card.
3. Has maintained the specified averages as noted for recognition without benefit of rounding.

Laboratory Requirements in Science:

Students enrolled in Regents science courses must satisfactorily complete 1200 minutes of laboratory activities. All of the required lab write-ups from these activities must be submitted in a satisfactory form. In order to encourage the students to keep pace with this requirement, the following policy will be in effect:

1. Students must submit the required lab write-ups each marking period.
2. If the student is falling behind, the teacher will notify the parent via a progress report and/or parent conference.
3. If at the end of the marking period the student has not submitted the lab write-ups due for that 10-week period, he/she will be issued an incomplete.
4. Lab write-ups are penalized when not in by the due date. Lab write-ups not submitted by the last day of the marking period will be counted as zeroes.
5. If, by the end of the academic year, the student has not met the lab requirement, the student has now lost the opportunity to sit for the Regents Exam.

Independent Studies:

Independent studies may be granted to students to supplement a student's overall course of study in high school. Independent studies may not be used to replace courses required for graduation or currently offered in the course catalog. Students are required to enter into an "Independent Study Contract" for each independent study course. The contract forms are available in the Guidance Office and require a teacher signature. An independent study may not commence until all necessary signatures are on the contract form. School credit may not be granted until the Principal has interviewed the student and sponsoring teacher after the submission of the independent study agreement.

Credit Without Completing Units of Study:

As per the Commissioner's Regulation 100.5 (d) (1), the high school allows students to earn a maximum of six units of credit for either a Regents or local diploma without completing the units of study. Requests for this option must be made in the spring prior to the next school year. See your counselor for details.

All students are advised annually of this opportunity during the spring scheduling conference with the school counselor.

Drop/Add Courses:

A student desiring to drop a course may **not** initiate a request to be dropped from enrollment:

For 20-week courses: Before the start of the second week or after the beginning of the second marking period without administrative approval.

For 40-week courses: Before the start of the second week or after the beginning of the third marking period without administrative approval.

Students may not add a course after the second week of the semester in which the course begins.

In addition, a student must have all required signatures on the Drop/Add form to either drop or add a course. Forms are available through your child's counselor.