

Additional related information is available online.

A wealth of information related to this topic may be accessed through the New York State Education Department Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Continuing Education Website at

www.emsc.nysed.gov

Publications specific to the Regents are available at

www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/testing/pubs.html

Information regarding general assessment can be found at

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/assess.html>

Pupil Personnel Services Advisory Team Members

*New York Association Of School Nurses
New York Association Of School Psychologists
New York Counseling Association
New York State School Counselor Association
New York State School Social Workers*



The Pupil Personnel Services Advisory Team was established in 2001 following a Summit co-sponsored by the above associations in partnership with the New York State Education Department. The mission of the team is to share resources that will help all students to exceed expectations.

Information presented by the Advisory Team does not necessarily represent the official position of the State Education Department.

This Pupil Personnel Services Advisory Memo was prepared by

*Thomas F. Kulaga, NCSP
New York Association of School Psychologists
Marlboro Central School District
Marlboro, New York
Kulaga@earthlink.net*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
THE USE OF REGENTS
AS FINAL
EXAMINATIONS IN
YOUR SCHOOL**

*A Pupil Personnel Services
Advisory Memo*



December 2002

THE USE OF REGENTS AS FINAL EXAMINATIONS IN YOUR SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

If you are planning to replace your local examinations with Regents examinations, there are a number of questions you will want to consider. Of course, the big question is how will using the Regents exam score as a final exam score benefit students.

Because all tests represent only a sample of student performance, the Regents exams may not measure material taught beyond the core curriculum. Consequently, a Regents exam score may not reflect your local standards.

Do you want your final examination to reflect what students have learned during the course? If so, then you might not want to use Regents scores.

WHAT ABOUT GRADES?

What procedures or policies do you have in place that address grading issues? How, for example, might your school weight grades from an advanced course? How might college admissions officers weight a letter grade, if your school used that method?

Will using the Regents exam score as a final exam score benefit the student?

REGENTS SCORING

Regents scores go from 0-100 so the temptation to use them as final exam scores exists.

However it is important to remember that these scores are standards based and qualitatively different from syllabus based scores.

Regents test scores are not percentile scores. The scores on any one examination simply represent “passing” or “failing”.

LOCAL WEIGHTING

If your school decided to use a Regents examination as a final examination, any label beyond “passing” or “failing” would be a matter of local discretion and policy.

You would need to make deliberate judgments as to how to weight Regents scores. For example, if 65 is passing, what would a score of 99 represent for your local course?

SUMMARY

Schools are not required to use Regents exam grades as part of the student’s final class grade. School districts can develop their own policies regarding usage of Regents exam scores.

If you are planning to replace your local exams with Regents examinations, you must determine if the Regents exams will appropriately assess your local curriculum.

As with all other educational decisions, the benefit to students should be the primary criterion in making your decision to use Regents as final examinations.