

## LETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THEIR RIGHT TO DECLINE REGENTS EXAM WAIVERS DUE TO COVID-19

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian of Potential Graduating Seniors,

With the cancellation of most Regents exams due to the COVID-19 pandemic (June 2020, August 2020, January 2021, June 2021, August 2021, and January 2022), your student can waive one or more Regents exams to graduate. Waiving an exam means that your student does not have to take and pass that exam to graduate because they met the criteria to receive a waiver.

You can decide not to have your student waive their Regents exams if you prefer your child to stay in high school until they meet graduation requirements or until the end of the school year in which they turn 21. If you choose to decline a Regents exam waiver, this decision cannot be reversed. Your student will be expected to work toward passing the exam in future administrations. Reach out to your student's school to discuss how the flexibilities due to COVID-19 impact your student's options for continuing to work toward graduation.

If you decide to accept all the Regents exam waivers due to COVID-19, your student will graduate as soon as they earn all their course credits.

Please reply to this letter and let us know which option you have chosen for your student. If your student does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), **we need to hear back from you by Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

**After Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 all Regents waivers due to COVID-19 will be granted to your student, and they will graduate if they earn all their course credits.**

If Regents exam waivers due to COVID-19 have already been applied but you wish to decline one or more waivers, please reach out to us as soon as possible and prior to graduation to remedy the situation.

**If your student has an IEP and is planning to return to school for a fifth or sixth year, they cannot graduate unless you reply to us with your decision.**

- **Accept all waivers: I accept all Regents waivers for my student.** I understand that my student will graduate once they have earned all their course credits. To let us know your selection, **respond to this letter by writing, "I accept all waivers."**

- **Decline all waivers:** I do not want any Regents exams waived for my student. To let us know your selection, **respond to this letter by writing, “I decline all waivers.”**
  - **I understand that my student will not graduate at this time if I select this option.**
  - I understand that my student will remain eligible to receive a free public education until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old, or until they receive a high school diploma.
  - I understand that in order to receive a diploma in the future, my student will no longer be eligible for Regents waivers due to COVID-19 and must meet all applicable graduation requirements. This means my student will have to continue preparing for future administrations of these Regents exams.
- **Accept some waivers:** I would like to decline some, but not all, of the Regents waivers for my student. I am available to discuss which exams I would like my student to waive. To let us know your selection, respond to this letter by writing “I accept some waivers.”
- **Undecided:** I am not sure. I would like to meet with a school staff member to discuss this decision. To let us know your selection, respond to this letter by writing “I am not sure.”

This is an important decision that impacts your student’s next steps after high school. We are available to discuss these options with you to help you make the best decision for your student. We congratulate your student for reaching this important stage in their high school career.

Sincerely,

Liberation Diploma Plus High School