



Pine Bush Central School District

Joseph Lenz, Superintendent of Schools

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Own your learning, lead the world!

September 30, 2026

Dear Pine Bush Learning Community,

The New York State Board of Regents recently approved significant changes to the state's high school diploma and graduation requirements. The Regents approved a transition to a single State high school diploma and also approved decoupling Regents examinations from graduation requirements for students graduating in 2028 and beyond. These changes are part of the next phase of the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) NY Inspires Education Transformation.

While there will be one State diploma, students will continue to have opportunities to highlight their individual accomplishments through seals and endorsements. The current Advanced Designation will become one of these recognized distinctions.

Regents examinations will continue to serve an important purpose by measuring student achievement of the New York State Learning Standards. Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, however, Regents examinations will no longer be a separate requirement for earning a high school diploma. NYSED anticipates presenting proposed regulations to the Board of Regents by February 2027, with implementation beginning during the 2027–2028 school year.

There are still many details to be determined. As NYSED develops and releases additional regulations and guidance, the Pine Bush Central School District will continue to share information with our families and provide clarity about what these changes will mean for our students.

We understand that families of students in the graduating classes of 2028 and beyond may have questions, particularly about how these changes could affect course selection and graduation planning. Supporting our students and families through this transition will be a priority. We will provide guidance to help students make thoughtful, informed decisions that support their individual goals and plans following high school.

At the same time, our leadership team and faculty will continue to expand career and technical education pathways, create additional opportunities for project-based learning, and explore new ways for students to demonstrate what they know and can do. We will also continue our work to align our curriculum and learning experiences with the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.

As this work continues and additional information becomes available, we will keep our families informed. Our focus remains on providing every Pine Bush student with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to be successful in college, career, and life beyond graduation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lenz

Superintendent of Schools