

"TESTING OUT" POLICY

ALTERNATIVE TO SPECIFIC REGENTS AND LOCAL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The Berlin Central School District Board of Education recognizes that some students, on the basis of past academic performance, may be capable of passing certain courses without the need to fulfill class time requirements.

Consistent with NYCRR, Part 100 Regulations concerning diploma requirements, the Berlin Central School District provides the opportunity for alternative diploma requirements as follows:

1. A student may earn a maximum of 6 1A units of credit for a Regents diploma without completing units of study for such units of credit if:
 - A. The student has declared his/her intention, in writing to the Superintendent (or his/her designee), on or before January 10th of the year in which he/she expects to "challenge" the exam;
 - 1) Students transferring into Berlin Central School District after January 10th must make application within 30 days of their enrollment. The Guidance Department will be responsible for informing each new student of this policy.
 - B. A valid reason for wishing to "challenge" an exam is contained in the written declaration mentioned above.
 - C. Based on the student's past academic performance and written reason for exercising this option, the Superintendent, in consultation with Principal, and/or department chairman, and parents determines that the student will benefit academically by exercising this alternative;
 - D. The student achieves a score of at least 85%, or its equivalent as determined by the Commissioner, on a state-developed or State approved examination;
 - E. Minimally, the student passes an oral examination or successfully completes a special project to demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the Department and the Principal, in the subject matter area;

- F. The student meets any additional specific requirements of the matter department involved. These specifics will be on file in the Guidance Office by June 1st and will be reviewed annually by the department involved.
 - G. The student attends school, or receives substantially equivalent instruction elsewhere, in accordance with Section 3204(2) of the Education Law, until the age of sixteen pursuant to Sections 3204 and 3205 of the Education Law.
2. A student may obtain a unit of credit in art and/or music in the following manner:
- A. By participating in a school's major performing organization such as band, chorus, orchestra, dance group or theatre group; or
 - B. By participating, only in exceptional situations, in an advanced out-of-school art or music activity. Credit for such participation shall be upon recommendation by the student's art or music teacher, shall be approved by the art or music department chairperson, if there is one, and by the school Principal, and shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of the school's art and/or music program.
 - C. A student may receive a unit of credit for participation in such activities if such participation is equivalent to a unit of study, or a student may receive one half unit of credit for such activity equivalent to one half unit of study.