



Cairo-Durham

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Expect Excellence

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Dr. Dotan Schips, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Cairo-Durham Families,

Earlier this week, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Board of Regents announced a transformative update to high school graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2028. We are thrilled about the incredible opportunities this shift stands to offer our students as New York moves toward a modern, comprehensive approach to measuring post-secondary readiness through its [NY Inspires initiative](#).

Under this new framework, state graduation requirements will transition to a single high school diploma. Beginning in 2028, passing a prescribed set of Regents exams will no longer serve as an independent requirement to graduate. It is important to note that Regents exams are **not** being eliminated — they will remain a vital tool for students to demonstrate mastery of state standards.

While the state has set this inspiring vision, NYSED is still developing the exact regulations and specific expectations that will replace the traditional exam-only path. As we await that direct clarity from the state, please rest assured that for the **2026–27 school year, all current graduation and assessment requirements remain fully in effect**. Students should continue attending classes, earning credits, and preparing for scheduled Regents exams as usual.

To prepare our students for these upcoming changes, New York State established the [Portrait of a Graduate](#), outlining six essential attributes: Academically Prepared, Creative Innovator, Critical Thinker, Effective Communicator, Global Citizen, and Reflective and Future-Focused.

We are excited to partner with our families and local community to tailor this vision into Cairo-Durham's own **Portrait of a Mustang**, which we will develop over the course of the school year in alignment with emerging state standards. This local framework will ensure every graduate leaves our high school fully equipped with the vital skills needed to thrive in their careers, pursue higher education, and meaningfully support our local community.

Thank you for your continued partnership, enthusiasm, and support as we embark on this bright new chapter together for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dotan Schips
Superintendent of Schools