

RIVERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

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January 4, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Last school year, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) cancelled the June 2020 and August 2020 administration of Regents Examinations due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Due to the cancellations, the Department announced certain modifications to the assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and/or endorsements. The modifications applied to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year. In addition, earlier this year, NYSED cancelled the January 2021 Regents Examination administration and has again proposed modifications to the diploma requirements to the Board of Regents impacting students in grades 7-12.

If your child is expected to graduate this January, and has been exempted from one or more assessments as a result of the pandemic, you have the right to decline the exemption, and allow your child to return to school for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, by completing the attached form. You are advised to carefully consider the declination of the exemption as the decision is irrevocable. If you decline the exemption, your child will not be eligible to graduate until he or she satisfies all of the applicable assessment requirements (including those which are currently eligible for exemption and are being declined). If you decline the exemption, your child will remain eligible to attend school until he or she meets the applicable graduation requirements or until the end of the school year in which he or she turns 21 years of age, whichever shall occur first.

If you want your child to receive the assessment exemptions and graduate this year, you do NOT need to return the attached form. You should only return the attached form if you want your child to remain in school for the 2020-2021 school year. If you do not return the form, your child will automatically receive the examination exemption and will be entitled to graduate, provided all other graduation requirements are met. State Education Department guidance concerning your right to decline examination waivers can be found on the District's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean P. O'Hara", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean P. O'Hara
Principal