TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SARAH INFANTE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

September 18, 2026

Dear Tonawanda Families,

I want to share an important update from the New York State Board of Regents regarding **New York Inspires** and the future of high school graduation requirements.

On September 14, 2026, the Board of Regents directed the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to move forward with changes that will **separate Regents examinations from diploma requirements and move toward one New York State high school diploma.**

What Families Should Know

Regents exams are not going away. They will continue to measure student achievement of New York State learning standards. Beginning with students graduating in June **2028**, however, passing Regents exams will no longer be a state requirement for earning a diploma.

New York will move to one diploma. Beginning with graduates in **June 2028**, the current system of multiple diploma types will transition to one New York State diploma. Advanced accomplishments will be recognized through seals and endorsements.

Student readiness will be measured in multiple ways. NYSED is moving toward an assessment system that looks beyond a single exam. Classroom assessments, projects, performance-based learning, internships, work-based learning, capstones, and other meaningful learning experiences may contribute to demonstrating what students know and can do as a part of earning a high school diploma.

What This Means for Tonawanda

Students graduating in **June 2027** will continue under the current graduation requirements.

For students graduating beginning in **June 2028**, requirements will begin to change as the new system is implemented.

Many details are still being developed by NYSED. Proposed regulations are expected in **February 2027**, followed by public comment and anticipated adoption in June 2027.

Tonawanda City School District will continue to monitor this work closely and will keep families informed as additional information becomes available. Our commitment remains the same: **to provide every student with rigorous, meaningful learning experiences that prepare them for college, career, and life beyond high school.**

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Infante