

If no Regents exams, diplomas mean zero

With its decision to eliminate the requirement that high school students pass Regents exams in order to graduate, the Board of Regents has sounded the death knell for education in New York State ["No Regents tests recipe for disaster," Letters, June 16].

A high school diploma is not a participation trophy; it is a credential earned that

indicates mastery of subject matter.

It is farcical that students will sit for exams in English, algebra and a science to comply with federal statutory requirements but will not be required to pass these exams.

Worse, there is no requirement that students pass exams in history and government. How can a functioning democratic republic survive if citizens are not required to understand the structure and mechanisms of their govern-

ment, and lack any historical context in which to place current events?

Public schools serve a dual purpose: They prepare students academically for further education or vocational training, and, no less important, educate students in how to be informed and active citizens. The revised graduation requirements do neither.

Yes, more students will graduate, but a high school diploma will mean nothing.

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