

Frequently Asked Questions Related to Virtual Laboratory Experiences and the 1,200-minute Laboratory Requirement

This resource addresses frequently asked questions related to the [Amendment of Section 100.5\(b\) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Laboratory Experience Required in Order to Take a Science Regents Examination](#). This option will ensure that all students have access to quality laboratory experiences, whether virtual or hands-on, that will fulfill the 1,200s

laboratory reports. with satisfactory documented

Note: The 1,200 minutes of laboratory experience must be in addition to the required classroom instruction associated with earning a unit of credit. This requirement can be fulfilled by a student who has completed a Science Regents Examination (with a score of 5 or higher) and a Science Regents Diploma (with a score of 5 or higher) (see [Regents Diploma Requirements](#)).

2. What has changed with the requirement?

4. Who decides whether to use an in-person or simulated laboratory experience?

The method of providing laboratory experiences is locally determined by a teacher and/or administrator.

5. If a student is unable to complete 1,200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory experiences during a school year, can the school or district grant a waiver?

No. No waiver exists for the number of satisfactory laboratory minutes required for admission into a Regents examination in science.

Note: If a student completed a course culminating in a Regents examination in science during the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year but was excused from the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those minutes remain waived. Additional information may be found in the [Virtual Laboratory Experiences and the 1,200-Minute Science Laboratory Requirement for the 2021-22 School Year memo](#).

6. Can laboratory reports be stored electronically?

Yes, laboratory reports may be retained via digital or hard copy. Schools and districts are required to retain satisfactory written reports for a time period of at least six months following the administration of the science Regents examination.

7. Does NYSED recommend a vendor that will provide virtual labs?

No. In New York State, curricula, including programs, materials, and tools to support instruction of the learning standards, are determined by local schools and districts. The New York State Education Department is a non-endorsing state agency, thus does not approve local curriculum or endorse vendors.

8. Can a student be admitted into a Regents examination in science if they did not pass the associated course?

Yes. There are two instances where a student could be admitted into a Regents examination in science without passing the course.

A student completed a course of study that culminates in a Regents examination in science and has also met the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement. Regardless of if the course was successfully (or unsuccessfully) completed, the student is eligible for admission into the Regents examination in science.

A superintendent (or chief administrative officer) determined the student would benefit from credit by examination. The student met the 1,200-minute laboratory requirement.

