



Mount Sinai Union Free School District

118 North Country Road
Mount Sinai, New York 11766
(631)870-2550
(631) 473-0905 (Fax)

Maureen Poerio
District Clerk/Executive Assistant

Gordon Brosdal
Superintendent of Schools

Lynne Kirchenko
District Treasurer

July 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

One of the many reasons why I applied to be Superintendent in Mount Sinai was the amazing level of student performance on the New York State Regents exams. This historical high performance is one of the pieces that enhances the Mount Sinai School District's reputation.

Please see the enclosed PowerPoint presentation ([click here to view](#)) that compares Mount Sinai's Regents results to those of neighboring districts. You will also note that Mount Sinai, like a number of local Suffolk County districts, counts the Regents as 20% of a student's grade. In addition, listed are some school districts that count the Regents as less than 20% of the final grade. Those listed at 10 or 12 percent also administer midterm exams, which also counts as part of the student's final average. Mount Sinai does not administer midterm exams.

The District is proud of its consistently high graduation rates, its number of Regents diplomas with advanced designation, and our Regents exam results. We are also proud of the fact that 97% of Mount Sinai graduates attend college. The District is held in high regard by New York State and our High School is recognized as a Rewards School. To be considered as a Rewards High School, the school must be in the top twenty percent of New York State High Schools. Success on the Regents exam and 95% participation by all groups of students in the exam, are also necessary to qualify for this honor. Mount Sinai was also rated as one of the top 500 high schools in the Nation. A school with substantially higher Regents scores than another school with a similar population, many would argue, provides a higher standard of education. Consistently delivering high rates of passing on these exams creates a culture of excellence and a glowing reputation for the District. Homes in a certain coveted school zone are often worth more than other comparable homes in lesser-performing districts.

As noted in the PowerPoint, Mount Sinai students achieved an 83% passing rate on an extremely difficult Geometry Regents this June. Many district superintendents are writing formal letters of complaint to the Commissioner regarding this Regents due to the fact that their students experienced passing rates of forty to sixty percent.

Last week the high school and district administration met to discuss the impact of Regents exam scores on students' final grade point average and the District as a whole. The committee gathered comparative data relevant to our students and the students of our neighboring and similar schools. Following the presentation of the data, the committee concluded that at present there was no concrete data to support a change in the 20% rate, and in Mount Sinai the Regents exam scores are not negatively impacting the majority of our students' final averages.

While the data does not currently support or warrant a change to the current grading practice, the District is committed to closely monitoring the relationship between students' averages and Regents

exam scores in January and June of each year. High School Principal Robert Grable plans to share the concerns of the parents who contacted him with his teachers in September and establish a committee of stakeholders to assist him in monitoring additional data. We are also in contact with a great number of superintendents and principals and engaging in a discussion of how these districts are handling the flawed Geometry Regents.

The welfare and success of our students is the District's number one priority. If there were concrete data/evidence that supported a change in the weight of Regents scores, a change would be made immediately.

We thank all parents for expressing their concerns over the Regents scores. Be assured that the administration, as well as our teachers, will be monitoring the impact of Regents scores throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Gordon Brosdal
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Riggio, Vice President
Kerri Anderson, Trustee
Lynn Jordan, Trustee

Board of Education
Lynn Capobianco, President

Edward Law, Trustee
Robert P. Sweeney, Trustee
Peter Van Middeltem, Trustee