

KENMORE-TONAWANDA UFSD



Science Laboratory Policy

- What is the laboratory requirement for admission to a Regents examination in science?

For admission to a Regents examination in science, a student must complete the State- mandated laboratory requirement. The laboratory component must be provided in addition to the required classroom instruction associated with earning a unit of credit and must include 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory with satisfactory laboratory reports [100.5(b)(7)(iv)(d)] In order to qualify to take a Regents examination in any of the sciences a student must complete 1,200 minutes of actual hands-on (not simulated) laboratory experience with satisfactory documented laboratory reports. The 1,200 minutes of laboratory experience must be in addition to the required classroom instruction associated with earning a unit of credit. Laboratory reports must be kept on file for at least six months after the student takes a Regents examination in science.

- What is the timeframe for meeting the laboratory requirement prior to admission to a State Regents examination in science?

Students must be allowed to make up and complete all laboratories with the teacher up to one week prior to the examination date. Students may be given comparative laboratories or alternative laboratories if equipment or time sensitive supplies are not available.

- What is the policy on the Earth Science Performance Test and admission to a State Regents examination in science?

It is to be administered during the last two weeks of the course, but no later than the day before the administration of the written test. All students, including those retaking the written examination, must be allowed to take the performance test each time they take this examination. Scores earned on the Earth Science Performance Test in conjunction with prior administrations of the written examination may not be carried over and applied to the student's final examination score for this Regents Examination. Students who do not

complete the Performance test will receive a raw score of zero on the performance test to be entered in the box both on the student's performance test answer booklet and on the student's answer booklet for the written test. Students however will still be allowed to take the written portion of the test even in the absence of the Performance test score.

- **What is the policy on the Living Environment Test and Part D section of the exam?**

Questions regarding the laboratory activities *Relationships and Biodiversity, Making Connections, The Beaks of Finches, and Diffusion Through a Membrane* are included in the Part D component of the Regents Examination in Living Environment. Since a portion of this assessment is devoted to these laboratory activities, it is highly recommended that students complete these laboratories but it is not a requirement for admission to the test.

- **If a student has previously completed the laboratory requirement of 1200 minutes do they need to complete it again when retaking the course?**

It is recommended but not required that the laboratory component be completed again by all students who fail any commencement-level science course.

- **May a school administrator or teacher exempt a student from the laboratory requirement?**

No. All students must complete the laboratory requirement. Students who are hospitalized, homebound, or home-schooled may be given comparative laboratories or alternative laboratories.

- **What is the policy on the dissection of animals?**

The district will give reasonable notice to all students enrolled in a course that includes dissection of an animal and students' parents or legal guardians about their rights to substantiate their child's moral or religious objection to witnessing or performing the dissection of an animal. Such notice shall be made available upon request at the school and distributed to parents and students enrolled in a course that includes dissection at least at the beginning the school year.

Special Needs Students

- **Must students with disabilities meet the science laboratory requirement for admission to the Regents examination in a science?**

All students must meet the State-mandated laboratory requirements.

- **What accommodations may be used in the science laboratory setting?**

All accommodations as indicated in the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) must be applied to the laboratory setting as needed. For example, a student with a visual impairment may have a laboratory partner or an aide report observations to the student. The student, however, must manipulate the data or make inferences from the observed data.

- **What is the science teacher's responsibility in implementing the IEP?**

According to Part 200, *Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to General Education and Diploma Requirements* [200.4 (e)(3)], the school district must ensure that each science teacher who is responsible for the implementation of a student's IEP shall have access to a copy of the IEP. Science teachers shall be informed by the school district of responsibilities related to implementing the student's IEP, specific accommodations, and in providing supports in accordance with the IEP.