

# BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Director  
Special Services & Health Services

Mrs. Karen Kushnir  
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Dear Parents/Guardians of High School Age Students:

The New York State Board of Regents has approved regulations that established a new exiting credential for students with disabilities. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year and thereafter, students with disabilities will be able to earn a New York State (NYS) Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential. This credential will recognize each individual student's preparation and skills for post-school employment. However, this credential is not considered a high school diploma. In the past, students who were unable to obtain a regular high school diploma may have been awarded an Individualized Education Program (IEP) diploma. However, the IEP diploma has been eliminated by the NYS Education Department. This new exiting credential will assist students who are not eligible for the New York State Alternative Assessment and are unable to complete the requirements necessary to obtain a regular high school diploma.

Additionally, if your child with a disability is able to graduate high school with a regular diploma, they also have the opportunity to add the CDOS credential to their high school diploma. Please be aware that adding a CDOS credential is optional for those students who are on track to obtain a regular high school diploma. Moreover, meeting the CDOS requirements will most likely result in additional courses of study.

In order to meet the requirements for CDOS Commencement Credential students have two pathways:

### Option I:

- Complete a Career Plan
- Demonstrate Achievement of the commencement level CDOS learning standards
- Successfully complete 216 hours of:
  - Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework and/or work based learning experiences.
  - And at least 54 hours must be in work-based learning experiences supervised by a NYS certified work-based learning coordinator.
- Complete a Employability Profile

### Option II:

In lieu of a student meeting the requirements of option I to be awarded the NYS CDOS Commencement Credential, a district may award a student this credential if the student has met the requirements for one of the nationally recognized work readiness credentials, including but not limited to:

- National Work Readiness Credential;
- SkillsUSA Work Force Ready Employability Assessment;
- National Career Readiness Certificate WorkKeys - (ACT); and
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems Workforce Skills Certification System.

For more information regarding the CDOS Commencement Credential, please feel free to contact me or your child's guidance counselor. Additionally, if your child plans on pursuing this exiting credential, please make sure that you and your child discuss it at their Committee on Special Education meeting.

More information from the NYS Education Department is available through the following link:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/CDOScredential-memo-613.htm>

Sincerely,



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Director of Special Services and Health Services  
(914) 273-2280

Cc: Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Chris Borsari, BHHS Principal  
Dr. Michael McGrath, Director of Guidance  
Ms. Karen Kusnir, Assistant Director of Special Services  
BHHS School Psychologists  
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