How to Read a High School Transcript

Student records help schools, students, and families track academic progress. Students, former students, parents, and guardians are entitled to view and obtain copies of their records as stated in the New York City Department of Education’s (NYCDOE) Parents’ Bill of Rights and Student Bill of Rights. Records follow a student from school to school within the NYCDOE. The last school a student attended (or is attending) is the best place to start when looking for records. For more information, see www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/learning/student-records-and-transcripts.

What is a transcript?
A transcript is the official full record of high school credits, final grades, and exams taken within the NYCDOE. It documents the courses and exams that a student has taken during high school.

There are two different versions of the transcript that you may request:

- The “student transcript,” is organized by year and term.
- The “student permanent record,” has similar information but is organized by subject area.

Your school may refer to either version as a “transcript.”

What is the purpose of a transcript?
The NYCDOE uses information on the transcript to determine the courses and exams a student needs in order to stay on track for graduation. You may also use your transcript to apply for opportunities after high school, such as colleges, jobs, or the military. Your transcript is evidence of the coursework and exams you completed, your grades and academic achievements, and your graduation from high school.

How can I get a copy of my transcript?
Your school should give you an unofficial transcript regularly. This allows you to check your transcript for accuracy and ask questions about your progress. Contact your school counselor if you have not received a copy of your unofficial transcript. You can request a copy at any time.

If you are under the age of 18, your parent or guardian can also request an unofficial transcript from your school at any point in the school year.

If you are a former student, you should contact the last school you attended for copies of your transcript.

What questions should I ask my school?
- When can I expect to graduate?
- What credits or exams do I still need to graduate?
- What courses and exams will I be scheduled for in the next term?
- How can I change my name and gender on my transcript?

Did you know?
Every student in New York City must earn 44 credits, distributed across specific subject areas, and pass specific exams in order to graduate. Learn more about graduation requirements online at www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/rules-for-students/graduation-requirements. Your school also has graduation requirements cards which outline credit and exam requirements based on the year you entered ninth grade.

You have the right to request written information about their school’s grading policy. Contact your school counselor for a copy of the school’s grading policy to learn how academic performance is measured.

NYC Schools Account allows parents or guardians to view their student’s attendance, grades, assessments, schedule, and contact information in ten languages on a computer, phone, or tablet. If your parents or guardians already have an NYC Schools Account, visit http://mystudent.nyc to login. To register for an NYC Schools Account, visit your school or register online at www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/support/nyc-schools-account-(nycsa).

Who can I ask for help? Talk to your school counselor or principal about:

- NYC graduation requirements
- Progress to graduation
- Your school’s grading policies
## How to Read the “Permanent Record”

1. **Name / ID**: Contains basic identifying and contact information. Contact your school if any of this information is incorrect.

2. **Actual Mark**: Represents the school year and term (2018/1) when the course was taken. A term is the full length of the course. Students receive final grades (actual marks) on their transcripts at the end of each term.

3. **Subject Area Average**: Describes what is actually being taught in a course. Unlike course codes, schools can choose their own course titles.

4. **Course Code**: Indicates what is taught and how that content is being delivered. All NYCDOE schools use the same course coding practices.

5. **Course Title**: Describes what is actually being taught in a course. Unlike course codes, schools can choose their own course titles.

6. **Number of Credits Each Course is Worth**: Some courses, such as science labs and Regents prep courses, are important experiences but do not count for credit. These courses appear on the transcript as worth 0.00 credits.

7. **Number of Credits the Student Earned**: Each course. Students earn credits for courses they have passed. You can find a summary of the number of credits attempted compared to the number of credits awarded at the bottom of each subject area section and at the bottom of the transcript. If a student fails a course, there will be fewer credits earned in comparison to actual credits attempted. Students need 44 credits in specific courses to graduate.

8. **Cumulative Grade Average**: Contact your current school if you have questions about how they calculate the cumulative grade average.