

Susan Murphy, Teacher, Oneonta High School

"First, I wanted to ask if the HS ELA Regents exam could refrain from using passages and questions that rely on an understanding of sarcasm, irony, understatement, and satire. All students must pass the Regents to earn a diploma and the RCTs are not available as a safety net. Students on the spectrum (Aspergers, autism, etc.) as well as other special education students cannot process sarcasm, understatement, irony, or satire. Asking them to comprehend these passages is like asking a colorblind student to recognize red and green.

Second, please bring back the RCTs or some other version of a local diploma. Many of our kids cannot pass 5 Regents exams, but they are career ready and deserve some form of legitimate high school diploma."