Hey! Are you in 9th grade? Or, are you a senior in high school struggling to get a diploma?

**GOAL:** To graduate from high school with a diploma.

**KEEP GOING!** You have the right to stay in school until the year you turn 21.

**LOOK OUT!** Don’t fail classes you can’t make up in summer!

“Pass all your classes in 9th grade or else you will be set back and have to take summer school or repeat classes in the school year.”
-Carmen Acosta, guidance counselor

**SHOW UP!** If you miss 20 days of school a year, you might not be able to graduate on time.

If you are a student with a disability assigned a Section 504 plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP), or if you are an English Language Learner (ELL), you can get extra help on your exams. Talk to your principal to find out more.

If you are not a student with disabilities or an ELL, you’re a General Education student.

Students from Stephanie Baker and Mary Ann Keeler’s Field Studies class at Lyons Community School in East Williamsburg worked with CUP teaching artist Max Allbee to clear up what you need for graduation. To investigate, we talked to a guidance counselor, a college and career readiness coordinator, and students in our school. We made this guide to explain how to get your diploma.
There are three types of diplomas you can get...
If you are struggling to finish high school with a diploma, an alternative is to get a High School Equivalency diploma, or HSE diploma, by taking an exam called the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC).

“The HSE is like a pit stop in your road to success. Afterward you can move forward and go to college.” - Karim French, Pathways to Graduation

In New York state, the HSE is called the TASC exam. It used to be called the GED.

The Department of Education (DOE) provides HSE programs for students 17-21 years old.

Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) provide adult HSE programs for students older than 21.

There are programs to help you get your High School Equivalency diploma. To find one, contact a Referral Center at (718) 557-2525 or visit nyc.doe for more info.

High School Equivalency

CUP is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement particularly among historically underrepresented communities. To learn more, visit welcometoCUP.org

City Studies is a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy. CUP partners with public high schools and after-school programs on project-based curricula that use design and art as tools to research the city.

Lyons Community School is a small school in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn, committed to providing a broad, stimulating experience in the liberal arts, and preparing students for college, healthy adulthood, and life-long learning. To learn more, visit lyonscommunityschool.org

CUP: Teaching artist: Max Allbee  Project lead: Pema Domingo-Barker  Project support: Valeria Mogilevich


Classroom teachers: Stephanie Baker and Mary Ann Keeler

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