

## The District Office of Education Celebrates 50 Years of Greek Language Examination Approval



New York State Department of Education approved the examination in Modern Greek on June 20, 1972, marking a significant milestone for the District Office of Education. This approval, which was championed by Dr. Emmanuel Hatziemmanuel, the Director at the time, emphasized the importance of the Greek language within the State of New York. It was a testament to the thriving Greek community and their dedication to preserving their heritage and culture.

The inclusion of the Modern Greek examination in the state's educational system was a landmark achievement. At that time, the only other language exams offered were for Romance languages. This decision recognized the significance of the Greek language and its rich history, encouraging students to explore and embrace it as part of their education.

For nearly four decades, the language Regents exams played a vital role in assessing students' language skills in various subjects. However, in 2009-10, language Regents exams, including Greek, were removed from schools. This change necessitated the development of alternative examination methods by individual school districts.

Fortunately, the District Office of Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

stepped in to ensure that the Greek language continued to be represented within the New York educational system. They obtained permission to offer a Greek (LOTE) exam, enabling students to showcase their proficiency in Modern Greek.

Despite ongoing changes implemented by the New York State Department of Education, the District Office of Education remains steadfast in its commitment to preserving and promoting the Greek language. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese continues to work diligently to ensure that the Greek language is celebrated and given the recognition it deserves within the educational landscape of New York.

Over the past 50 years, the Greek Language Examination has not only served as an assessment tool but has also fostered a sense of pride and cultural identity within the Greek community. It has allowed students to connect with their heritage, maintain their linguistic skills, and further their understanding of Greek literature, history, and culture.

The District Office of Education's dedication to the Greek language examination is a testament to the enduring value and significance of language education. Through their efforts, they have ensured that Greek students have the opportunity to showcase their language proficiency and that the Greek language continues to be an integral part of New York's diverse educational tapestry.

As we celebrate 50 years since the approval of the Modern Greek examination, let us recognize the contributions of the District Office of Education and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in preserving and promoting the Greek language. Here's to 50 years of celebrating the Greek language within the New York educational system, and may its significance endure for generations to come.

For any further information regarding taking this examination please contact the Associate Director Ms. Athina Filippou at [\[email protected\]](#)

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