

INSTRUCTION

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The school principal will arrange each spring for appropriate awards and recognition programs and graduation exercises. There will be no formal graduation exercises for elementary and middle school.

Participation in graduation exercises is a privilege extended to students who satisfy the requirements set forth by the Portsmouth School Committee to receive a diploma. In addition, students receiving a diploma will be expected to have demonstrated good conduct, both in school and in the community, which is consistent with the standards of good citizenship, the rules of the school department, and maintains the positive image of Portsmouth High School, in order to participate in graduation exercises.

The School Committee shall set the date for graduation at Portsmouth High School on or before the School Committee's April business meeting.

Effective for the Class of 2022 and beyond

Portsmouth High School graduation requirements are in compliance with The Rhode Island High School Diploma System as prescribed by the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. The requirements are in place to ensure that Portsmouth High School graduates are able to demonstrate proficiency in the five school-wide learning expectations.

The course of study for all students at Portsmouth High School will include rigorous common demonstrations of proficiency for all courses and common end of course examinations. In addition, prior to graduation, all seniors must have successfully completed at least **one** of the following options in order to ensure all Portsmouth students are well prepared to embark upon their intended college or career pathway:

- a. Completion of a Career and Technical Education program, including an embedded capstone or a related student exhibition project.
- b. Completion of a RIDE sanctioned and Local Education Agency (LEA) approved pathway, including an embedded capstone or related student exhibition project.
- c. Completion of a Student Exhibition project - a RI Department of Education recognized performance-based diploma assessment option.

Course requirements for graduation, beginning for the Class of 2022 will be:

English.....	4 Credits
Social Studies.....	3 Credits (including US History)
Mathematics.....	4 credits
Science.....	3 credits
Physical Education/Health	2 credits
Technology	1/2 credit
Fine Arts	1/2 credit

All Portsmouth High School students will complete an approved financial literacy experience before graduating. This experience can include a school-approved financial literacy course or program.

Students must meet all the above distribution requirements and accrue a total of 23 credits including electives.

All potential graduates must complete the state assessments prescribed by the Rhode Island Department of Education if they are enrolled at Portsmouth High School during the grade that is tested.

Following the procedures established by the high school principal, students will be certified to be eligible for graduation by the principal immediately following the close of grades for seniors at the end of the fourth marking period. Only students certified by the principal are eligible to receive a Portsmouth High School Diploma and to participate in graduation ceremonies.

In order to be eligible for a Portsmouth High School diploma, a student must, at minimum, be enrolled as a Portsmouth student for the final semester of the senior year and submit an incoming transcript for review.

Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who complete the prescribed diploma requirements will receive a diploma that does not differentiate from the diploma received by children who do not have IEP's. This includes students who achieve modified proficiency standards requiring significant interventions under federal and state regulations and who are eligible for alternate assessment as defined by the state of Rhode Island.

Eligible students who meet these criteria may participate in graduation ceremonies at the end of their fourth year of high school, or during the year in which they turn twenty-one years of age.

Students denied participation in the graduation ceremony may file an appeal in writing to the principal. If denied by the principal, the appeal may be presented following the normal appeal procedure through the office of the superintendent, followed by an appeal to the school committee, and if necessary to the Rhode Island Department of Education.