

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

A. Requirements for Graduation

Successful completion of:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of math
- 3 credits of social studies (includes 1 credit of US History)
- 3 credits of laboratory science\*
- 2 credits of physical education
- 1 credit of health
- 1 credit of computer applications\*
- 1/2 credit of fine arts
- 4.5 credits of general electives
- Successful completion of the Senior Project

*\*For students who plan to enroll in a four year college or university directly from high school, science courses should include biology and chemistry and mathematics should include Algebra 1 and 2 plus Geometry with Pre-calculus recommended. In addition, college bound students should complete a minimum of two consecutive years of the same foreign language and consider choosing additional courses in line with their interests and goals.*

Every student must be “fully scheduled” (35 periods) for each year in high school (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior). In order to graduate from the Block Island School a minimum total of 23 credits must be earned. (Most students are able to earn 25 – 29 credits over four years.) NOTE: If a student does not complete the minimum graduation requirements of 23 credits then he/she will not be allowed to participate in senior activities and graduation ceremonies.

In addition to credits being obtained through taking courses that are offered at our school, other means of obtaining credits are through correspondence courses, concurrent enrollment, independent study, Internet courses, advanced placement, and work study.

B. Early Graduation Program

The Block Island School encourages students to remain in school for the full sequence of years in order to provide the best possible preparation for post-secondary life. It is recognized that, in a very small number of cases, graduation at the end of eleventh grade or during twelfth grade (Early Graduation) may be both possible and beneficial. Students considering early graduation are encouraged to explore concurrent enrollment as a preferred alternative (see section C). Early graduation is a serious step and should be considered and attempted only after careful consideration and review by a student and family conducted in consultation with school personnel. For a realistic chance of success, students considering early graduation should minimally have earned 14 credits and be on track with the required courses at the end of grade 10.

1. Students attempting early graduation must fulfill the graduation requirements of the Block Island School. No graduation requirements shall be waived. Students attempting early graduation bear the responsibility of fulfilling the necessary course credits and all other requirements prior to graduation.

2. Students attempting early graduation are considered in the appropriate grade according to credits earned: attempting early graduation does not confer senior status in and of itself. Students successfully completing early graduation may participate in graduation and related activities along with all other successful graduates. Should graduation requirements not be fulfilled early, the student may participate in the graduation ceremony after which requirements are met.

C. Grade Status

Students progressing towards graduation move from grade to grade according to credits earned. It is the intent to allow students to move through the grades as long as they maintain a pace of earned credits that reasonably allows graduation requirements to be fulfilled through a regular year schedule at the Block Island School. Such status shall be determined accordingly:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Sophomore	5
Junior	10
Senior	16

Adopted: 9/20/99

Revised: 12/19/05; 12/21/2009; 07/23/2012; 01/14/2013; 07/15/2013; 08/17/2015

*New Shoreham School District, Block Island School*