

Graduation Requirements

[The Rhode Island Department of Education \(RIDE\) has developed a Diploma System](#) that affects all public high school students. To meet the needs of a diverse and unique student population, the Barrington Public Schools (BPS) has developed a tiered diploma system that builds upon the Rhode Island Model. Upon successful completion of the criteria outlined in this policy, students may achieve a Rhode Island Diploma, a Rhode Island Diploma with Distinction, or a Barrington High School Diploma.

To achieve a **Rhode Island Diploma**, Barrington High School students must complete a minimum of 23 academic credits. Along with the successful completion of these credits, students must also demonstrate proficiency in six core academic areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Technology, and the Arts) through multiple measures including coursework, state assessments, proficiency tasks, and performance based tasks that incorporate applied learning skills. To help individual students attain proficiency, an [Individual Learning Plan](#) (ILP) must be created to provide the framework to identify a student's goals and the pathways used to achieve the necessary skills for success.

The specific requirements that students must meet in order to graduate with a Rhode Island Diploma are as follows:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 23 academic credits
- Demonstration of proficiency in six “core academic areas” (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Technology, and the Arts)
- Successful completion of the performance-based graduation requirements:
 - Two proficiency tasks per core subject courses per year (16 proficiency tasks by graduation) that assess the 9-10 grade level standards
 - Senior Project
- Successful completion of an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Class of 2019: Demonstration of proficiency in Financial Literacy through completion of a financial literacy online module or equivalent
- Participation on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment for the classes of 2018 and 2019
- Achievement of the RIDE PARCC cut score or other RIDE approved assessment scores for proficiency beginning with the class of 2020. Students who are below proficient on the state assessment will be placed on a progress plan and receive interventions and supports to meet the required level of proficiency. Parents of students not meeting the assessment cut scores will be notified and will meet with the guidance counselor and the students to develop the plan. Parents and students on graduation proficiency plans will be notified of progress at each marking period.

Students must earn 23 academic credits and meet all course requirements as follows:

Course(s)	Credit(s)
English	4.00
Mathematics	4.00
Science	3.00
Social Studies	
• World History	1.00
• United States History	1.00
• American Government	.50
• Economics	.50
STEAM (A course(s) identified in the Program of Studies eligible for a STEAM credit in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and/or Mathematics)	1.00
Physical Education/Health	2.00
Electives	6.00

Senior Project Class of 2019: Financial Literacy	Must Meet Proficiency Successful Completion
Total Credits	23.00

To achieve a **Rhode Island Diploma with Distinction**, students must successfully complete the above criteria and receive a score of proficient with distinction on both the English Language Arts and Mathematics state assessments,

- and receive a 5 on two or more Advanced Placement examinations
- or successfully complete two or more approved dual enrollment/concurrent courses with a 4.0 or higher average.

Barrington Public Schools believes that all students who successfully complete pre-established and approved graduation requirements outlined in collaboration with school officials deserve a Barrington High School Diploma. To achieve a **Barrington High School Diploma**, students and parents may opt to enroll in an alternate pathway for graduation with recommendations from school officials. The requirements for this individual pathway will be established with the high school proficiency based graduation team and other relevant school professionals. The proficiency based graduation team, including the school principal, has the authority to approve entry into an alternate pathway program no later than second semester of the student's sophomore year.

Students who successfully complete this pathway will receive a Barrington High School Diploma. The successful criteria for completing this program are as follows:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 23 academic credits inclusive of transition courses as documented in the student ILP. Courses may include internship, family and consumer science courses, daily life, career exploration, business and finance courses, STEAM, etc.
- Successful completion of Senior Project
- Successful completion of an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Successful completion of transition courses as documented in the student's ILP or individual transition plan
- Successful completion of the requirements for a stackable work-readiness certificate identified as a component of their transition plan
- Any student with an approved pathway plan may submit a waiver to the high school principal for no more than three elective credits under extenuating circumstances. Waivers will not be granted for students who have not completed their core and transition courses.
- Participation on the PARCC assessment beginning with the class of 2018 for students eligible

- Class of 2019: Demonstration of financial literacy; criteria documented in the student's ILP.

Special Education Notification

A student who has an active Individual Education Plan (IEP), may be eligible for a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) until the age of twenty-one years of age.

- Eligible students who meet these criteria may opt to 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.

The IEP team will notify the high school principal prior to October of the school year in which the student wishes to participate in graduation activities and ceremonies. Participation in graduation activities and ceremonies under this policy will not affect a student's right to receive FAPE, or to receive a diploma in the event that the student should subsequently meet the graduation requirements.

Transfer Students

The transcripts of students who transfer from another school will be reviewed to determine alignment of course, credit, assessment or other required criteria.

Physical Education

Under extenuating circumstances, the credit requirement for physical education may be waived for medical reasons.

These graduation requirements are subject to ongoing review and revision and are in accordance with School Committee policy and applicable state regulations.

Communication Process

All students and families will be notified of the high school graduation requirements in writing no later than at the completion of their 8th grade year. In addition, communication of the graduation requirements will occur during the high school course selection process and at parent and student transition to high school events and meetings.

Appeals Process

Parents and students who wish to appeal decisions related to the granting of a diploma will file a request with the Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) high school review team consisting of the Principal, Guidance Chair, Proficiency Based Coordinator, Department Chair, and Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

After making a decision, the decision will be available for the Superintendent for review and monitor.

The team will provide all evidence used to make the diploma decision. Evidence will be maintained and tracked in the Student Information System by the Guidance Department and the Proficiency Based Graduation Coordinator.

The diploma review team will convene no later than seven school days after receiving a request for a review.

The Superintendent is hereby directed to ensure the BPS diploma process grants diplomas in those specific conditions described in this policy. It is the responsibility of BPS to store all sources of evidence used to make diploma decisions and to make such evidence available as part of student records, upon request in response to appeals, or as part of the diploma system review process.

Appeals to decisions of the Diploma team may be made to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will provide a written decision within seven days of receipt of an appeal.

Appeals to the decisions of the Superintendent of Schools may be directed to the BPS School Committee. Appeals will be heard within seven days of receipt and a written decision will be provided within seven days of the hearing.

Nothing in this appeals process prevents parents from directly appealing to the Superintendent or the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Approved 03/04/1999

Revised 06/17/1999

Revised 10/07/2004

Revised 05/04/2006

Revised 01/08/2009

Revised 06/18/2015

Addendum to Barrington Graduation Policy
Barrington Public Schools Diploma Waiver Policy

BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WAIVER FOR THE STATE-ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

As set forth in the 2011 [K-12 Literacy, Restructuring of the Learning Environment at the Middle and High School Levels, and Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements \(PBGR\) at High Schools Regulation \(Secondary Regulations\)](#), all students must complete each of the following graduation requirements in order to earn a diploma:

- (1) Successful completion of a minimum of 23 credits at High School level.
- (2) Demonstration of proficiency through performance-based assessments:
 - Successful Completion of Senior Project; and
 - 70% on the Comprehensive Course Assessments without modifications or a proficient level on two proficiency-based common tasks as identified in the program of studies per each core course at the 9th and 10th grade level.
- (3) Attainment of the level of “partially proficient” on the state Grade 11 assessment or measurable improvement of the student’s initial score on the Grade 11 state assessments.

Students have the opportunity to meet the state initial assessment requirement through the use of other [approved assessments as defined by the Rhode Island Department of Education](#) (RIDE) only after completion of two administrations of the state assessment in the required content areas. In relatively few cases, students who do not meet the required level of proficiency on the state assessment or other approved assessments may apply for a waiver [Appendix 3]. For such students, Barrington Public Schools has developed and implemented a waiver process, which ensures a fair, efficient, and accurate review of waiver applications.

The 2011 Secondary Regulations describe the conditions under which Local Education Agency (LEAs) may grant waivers for the state assessment requirement for high school graduation for students who have attained and can demonstrate the required level of proficiency, as set forth below:

[L-6-3.3](#). If a student is unable to demonstrate graduation readiness through the state assessment or a Board of Education approved testing alternative, the student may apply to his

or her LEA for a waiver of the state assessment portion of the graduation requirements. LEAs are authorized to grant waivers from the state assessment requirement set forth in this section only in those rare cases in which the state assessment is not a valid means of determining the proficiency of individual students. Waiver eligibility will be considered only for those students for whom: (1) there is a preponderance of evidence of academic content mastery consistent with 6 ~~the sequence of testing~~, and (2) the student has requirements set forth in this section. Barrington Public Schools is the decision-making body for waivers exempting Barrington High School students from the state assessment diploma requirement. Barrington Public Schools is authorized to grant waivers in appropriate cases, and through the adoption of this policy hereby establishes a local process that ensures a fair, efficient, and accurate review of the waiver application. The Superintendent is hereby charged with decision-making authority for granting waivers. Barrington Public Schools commits to be proactive in monitoring a student's eligibility for a waiver and, when appropriate, support the compilation of evidence needed for a waiver.

IMPLEMENTATION

Waivers apply to only the state assessment component of the student graduation requirements. A student must meet the eligibility criteria, outlined in the Waiver Protocol, in order to be considered for a waiver. At a minimum, the conditions by which students can be considered for a waiver are:

- (1) Demonstration of academic content mastery consistent with the 9-10 grade level standards;
- (2) Completion of the sequence of state testing requirements including participation and demonstrated effort in their Progress Plan; and
- (3) Completion of all of the other graduation requirements (course work, performance assessments and other local graduation requirements).

Barrington Public Schools hereby establishes a local process for the review of waivers that includes district-level involvement in the final decision process. This process shall include:

- a. The establishment, adoption and communication of policy and procedures for the waiver.
 - School Committee Approval and publication in the School Committee Policy Manual.
 - Provision of procedures on the Barrington High School Website and the Program of Studies beginning in 2014-2015.
- b. Publication and communication of the timeline for requesting waivers, the length of time for reviewing evidence and for making waiver decisions.
 - Waivers will be accepted after a student has received the results of the second administration of the state assessment.
 - Review and decisions will be provided to the students and their families no later than two weeks prior to the third administration to allow time for an appeals decision.
- c. The establishment of a waiver review team.

- Waiver review team will consist of the Principal, Guidance Chair, Proficiency Based Coordinator, Department Chair of area of waiver request, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

d. Identification of roles and responsibilities for reviewing evidence. [See Waiver Review Team] After making a decision, the decision will be available for RIDE for review and monitor.

e. Identification of the types and amount of evidence used in making waiver decisions. [See Eligible Evidence Below]

f. Development and maintenance of a system for managing the evidence used to make waiver determinations.

- Evidence will be maintained and tracked in the Aspen X2 System by the Guidance Department and the Proficiency Based Graduation Coordinator.

g. Establishment of a process for documenting and making available waiver decisions.

- The waiver review team will convene no later than seven school days after receiving an eligible request for a waiver.

The Superintendent is hereby directed to ensure the Barrington Public Schools waiver process grants waivers only in those specific conditions described in this policy and the attached waiver protocol. It is explicitly acknowledged that RIDE will monitor the Barrington Public Schools waiver process and the granting of waivers during the diploma system review process. It is the responsibility of Barrington Public Schools to store all sources of evidence used to make waiver decisions and to make such evidence available as part of student records, upon request in response to appeals, or as part of the diploma system review process.

LEGAL REFERENCE

Regulations of the Board of Education: K-12 Literacy, Restructuring of the Learning Environment at the Middle and High School Levels, and Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) at High Schools – Section [L-6-3.3](#), Use of state assessments for High School graduation. HISTORY RIDE: Initial Guidance for High School Regulations.

Approved: 10/29/13

Appendix 1: Waiver Protocol

Establishment of the Waiver Process

Waivers are not the same as exemptions from participation in a particular administration of the state assessment. Exemption decisions are made at the time of each administration of the state assessment on the basis of established criteria.

Students are not eligible to begin the waiver process until they have completed, at minimum, the second administration of the state assessment in the required content areas.

As part of establishing a waiver process, the Superintendent shall be responsible for the completion of the following five steps for successful implementation of a Waiver Process.

1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

To the extent possible, information on the waiver process will be integrated into the Individual Learning Plan and/or existing monitoring processes. This includes monitoring students' potential eligibility for a waiver based on prior testing and performance and communicating to students and their families of the specific conditions in which a waiver may be granted. Communication to families will be in the preferred language or mode of communication unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. Waivers are intended only for students for whom there is clear evidence that they have reached the required level of proficiency as defined by RIDE.

To determine if a student is eligible for a waiver, there must be evidence that the student has met the following criteria.

The student has:

- Successfully completed all elements of their local graduation requirements except for the state assessment; and
- Completed the sequence of state testing requirements, NECAP administration in October of the 11th Grade and if needed again in their senior year, set forth in the 2011 Secondary Regulations; and
- Documented evidence of academic content mastery consistent with the 9-10 grade level standards, which include multiple [a minimum of two] and different types of evidence; and
- Demonstrated effort to improve their skills through participation in their Progress Plan/associated interventions and demonstrated commitment to their academic success through the completion of their senior year; and

- Where appropriate, a documented pattern of discrepancy between their demonstrated level of proficiency and their performance on standardized assessments.

2. ELIGIBLE EVIDENCE

The criteria used to determine if evidence is eligible must, at a minimum be aligned to the 9-10 grade level standards.

The list below provides examples of eligible evidence and a few examples of ineligible evidence.

NOTE: Multiple pieces of evidence [minimum of two] are necessary to demonstrate sufficient levels of meeting the proficiency requirement in the waiver determination.

Examples of Eligible Evidence*

1. Portfolio work aligned to 9-10 grade level standards in required areas.
2. Outside activities/projects aligned to the grade 9--10 grade level standards.
3. Outcome data collected from interim and/or progress monitoring assessments.
4. Outcome data collected from high quality assessments administered by a certified test administrator.
 - a. [See RIDE Approved Assessments](#)
5. A language proficiency adjustment (LPA) score for eligible ELL students.
6. Course performance in academic content aligned to 9-10 grade level standards that reflect the proficiency descriptions [Appendix 2] as measured by:
 - Course work, course assessments and course grades.
 - Performance assessments/tasks in math and/or reading.
 - Virtual Learning Math Modules.
 - Relevant activities/material in progress plan.

*Evidence can include activities or products that were accomplished with appropriate accommodations but not those activities accomplished with modifications that alter the content of the 9-10 grade level standards.

Examples of Evidence Not Sufficient for Supporting Waiver Eligibility

1. Performance in courses below the 9-10 grade level standards.
2. Performance on assessments modified below the 9-10 grade level standards.
3. Letters of support.
4. Student attendance records.
5. Number of credits earned.
6. Outside activities unrelated to the testing domain.

3. EVIDENCE EVALUATION

- a. Individual courses or sequences of courses that must be completed. Course content must include, at minimum, state adopted standards for Algebra I and Geometry and required standards for 9-10 grade level standards English Language Arts. Courses should be aligned to national codes such as SCED codes. These courses are identified in the Program of Studies.
- b. The level of performance in those courses indicates a demonstrated level of proficiency that reflects the 9-10 grade level standards. The level of required performance is similar to that of students in those same courses who have met the state assessment requirement. This level of

proficiency is measured by a minimum score of 70% on the Comprehensive Course Assessments without modifications or a proficient level on two proficiency-based common tasks as identified in the program of studies per each course at the 9th and 10th grade level.

c. The level of achievement on performance based diploma assessments may contribute evidence of student proficiency is defined by a minimum score of 70% on the Comprehensive Course Assessments without modifications or a proficient level on two proficiency-based common tasks as identified in the program of studies per each core course at the 9th and 10th grade level.

d. Performance evidence, such as successfully completed course work or progress monitoring assessment results, gathered through the Progress Plan may contribute evidence of student proficiency, will be monitored by guidance and the Proficiency Based Graduation Coordinator through Aspen X2 as well as the interventionist. Note: successful completion of a Progress Plan alone will not provide sufficient evidence to grant a waiver.

e. Common non-school sources of evidence that will be considered include dual enrollment courses, accredited virtual high school courses, earned technical credentials or licensure, extended learning opportunities, etc., in the tested content areas.

4. APPLICATION REVIEW SYSTEM

The review team is composed of the Building Principal, Guidance Department Chair, Proficiency Based Graduation Coordinator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and the content area department chair for the area(s) under review. When applicable the ELL Coordinator will also participate on the review team.

5. EVIDENCE COLLECTION

Barrington High School will collect and maintain evidence used to develop proficiency profiles for student waiver decisions. This collection will be kept for no less than one year from the time of decision. The summary form [Appendix 3] will be kept for a period of five years from the date of decision.

Upon review of individual waiver applications, recommendations shall be forwarded by the review team to the Superintendent for final approval and signature.

APPEALS

Students and families retain the right to appeal overall graduation decisions in accordance with the LEA appeal policy. Appeals encompass all components of the state graduation requirements as well as any local graduation requirements. All students and their families may appeal a graduation decision made by the LEA.

The district School Committee hears and is the decision-making body for appeals. This is different from the waiver process, which is only applied to the state assessment component of the high school diploma requirements.

EXEMPT STUDENTS

The Secondary Regulations state that students who participate in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment (RIAA) are not eligible to receive a high school diploma and therefore are not eligible for consideration of a waiver.

Appendix 2: Proficiency Descriptions

Content area specialists at RIDE developed the following with input from district content specialists as part of the suite of guidance documents for the implementation of the secondary regulations. These descriptions are intended to describe a student who is proficient at the 9-10 grade level standards. The state assessment requirement is for students to demonstrate partial proficiency at the 9-10 grade level standards.

For the purposes of determining eligibility for a waiver from the state assessment, a district may use the following strategy to identify the minimum level of proficiency required for a waiver:

- Identification of the students who are doing well on the state assessment (Partially Proficient or Proficient on NECAP);
- Determining their level of performance on local performance based assessments and courses; and
- Examining their course enrollment patterns.

This will help establish a profile of the level of performance required for graduation and will provide a profile of what an eligible student should look like in the evidence collected in coursework, performance assessments and other eligible activities.

Reading Proficiency Description

Students are prepared to read materials in post-secondary settings or in the workplace beyond high school. The student uses a variety of strategies to read with accuracy to understand (summarize and interpret) a range of literary and informational texts across content areas. The student identifies purpose for reading, uses literary elements, text structures, and/or text features to make and support assertions about texts. The student reflects on and can describe the role of reading in an area of specialized interest (e.g. flexible and appropriate use of strategies for different texts, reading for research, self-selecting text based on topic, interest, etc.).

Mathematics Proficiency Description

Students can demonstrate a conceptual understanding of number and operations; algebra and functions; data, statistics, and probability; and geometry and measurement. Students can apply a variety of strategies to determine and defend the reasonableness of solutions through correct, clear, and concise explanations by solving real-life situations. Students can generalize and apply these understandings to new situations and problems. Students can work within and across all types of real numbers and number systems. Students can understand concepts of and use properties of various functions represented in symbolic, graphic, and tabular form. Students analyze and interpret data presented in tables and graphs and use statistical models to prove and defend a position. Students can prove and justify geometric relationships.

Appendix 3: Waiver Application

Waivers are intended only for those students for whom there is clear evidence that he or she has demonstrated the required level of proficiency to earn a diploma. This summary report must be kept for a period of five years from the date of decision and available for review.

Expected Graduation Date	
Date Waiver Submitted	
School Counselor	
Advisor	

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name	
School	Barrington High School
ID #	
DOB	
Grade	

PROGRESS TOWARD DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:

Credits	Progress	Credits	Progress
4 Math		.5 Art/Music/Theater	
4 English		6.5 Electives	
3 History		2 PE/Health	
3 Science			

Other		23 Total Credits Required	[# / XX]
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NECAP	11 th Gr. Score	12 th Gr. Score
Math		
Reading		

Performance Assessments	Progress/ Completion

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT PROFICIENCY:

Evidence Documentation Name	Type of Evidence
Progress Plan Participation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coursework <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Performance/ Diploma Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coursework <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Performance/ Diploma Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coursework <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Performance/ Diploma Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other

	<input type="checkbox"/> Coursework <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Performance/ Diploma Assessment		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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WAIVER APPROVAL:

Waiver Approved
 Waiver Rejected

 Principal Date

 Superintendent Date