

Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, students must:

- ✓ complete at least 20 Carnegie units,
or courses:

Course work will be more or less the same as in the past except that now high-school courses will include opportunities for students to practice applying the course's information and skills to real-world projects and problems.

- ✓ demonstrate their proficiency

- in six core content areas including applied learning skills.

- ✓ as measured by such assessments as:

- exhibitions
- portfolios
- projects
- performances
- speeches or presentations
- conventional tests, quizzes, papers, labs, etc.

Other creative strategies as mutually agreed on by student and school

- ✓ and participate in the state assessments.

In the real world, all students need to be able to perform a multi-step problem using critical thinking and content knowledge. In RI, a student must demonstrate proficiency in content knowledge as well as the ability to apply knowledge and skills to complex problems.

The Rhode Island High School Diploma System

(revised 9.06)



Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
401.222.4600

www.ride.ri.gov/highschoolreform

Funded by:

The United States Department of Education -
High School Reform Initiative

and

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
in partnership with
The Education Alliance at Brown University



The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

The Rhode Island High School Diploma System



All kids well prepared for high - performing, bright futures



Peter McWalters, Commissioner

June 2005

THE RI HIGH-SCHOOL DIPLOMA SYSTEM

Schools must be sure that all students successfully complete a rigorous diploma program that gives them access to college or post-secondary training whether immediately after high school or when and if they so choose.

Required:

Proficiency in Core Content Knowledge

- ✓ Successful completion of at least 20 Carnegie units, demonstrating proficiency in six core areas:
 - English language arts (4 units required)
 - Mathematics (4 units required)
 - Science (Requirements set by school)
 - Social studies (Requirements set by school)
 - The arts (Requirements set by school)
 - Technology (Requirements set by school)

Participation in the state assessments

- English Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science (in 2008)
- Each student's results from the state tests will count towards graduation, but never enough to prevent a student from graduating.

Creating an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)

Students write ILPs in conjunction with their advisors, teachers, guidance counselors and parents. The plan plots a course of study, extracurricular and other activities that prepare the student for the future. The ILP helps students focus on their goals and how to use the time in high school to accomplish their personal objectives and graduation requirements.

Required:

Proficiency in Applied Learning Skills

- ✓ Demonstrations of proficiency in applied learning skills in all six core areas. Applied learning skills are:
 - Critical thinking
 - Problem solving
 - Research
 - Communication
 - Personal and social responsibility

Evidence of proficient applied learning skills can include:

- Presentations – such as speeches, projects or performances
- Products – such as essays, architectural drawings, or science journals

Schools have chosen two of four strategies for these demonstrations:

- Exhibition or Capstone – a multi-step, culminating project
- Portfolio – a collection of evidence
- Certificate of Initial Mastery – a course of study that creates evidence
- End of Course Assessments

Students will apply their learning to projects designed around their own interests or passions.

School advisors and content area teachers will help students design exhibition and portfolio projects that satisfy the student's own natural thirst for information and skills.

Required:

Support Systems for all Students

- ✓ Personal Literacy Plans for any student not reading on grade level
Teachers will develop a Personal Literacy Plan (PLP) for any child who is reading below a certain grade level, at every grade. RI's literacy initiative is designed to catch problems and provide help as early as possible. The plan outlines exactly what will be done to help the student become a strong reader.

Multiple and varied assessments

A diploma system for all students must be flexible when creating assessments for students who are English language learners or children with disabilities. All students will be held to high standards, though each student's education will be addressed with different and creative solutions.

Personalized education

Schools are making sure that every student is known well by at least one school adult who can offer guidance, help, and on occasion, referrals to professionals who can provide specialized help. Personalization is key to the success of every student and every school.