

Bristol Warren Regional School District**Graduation Requirements**

The Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) promotes the education of all students through rigorous coursework and curriculum aligned to state and national standards, and 21st century learning expectations, and by providing academic and social emotional support mechanisms. In order to be eligible for a diploma from Mt. Hope High School (MHHS), students must demonstrate proficiency in six core academic areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. This includes successful completion of a minimum of 23 courses aligned to applicable state and national content standards, demonstration of applied learning skills through a performance-based diploma assessment and participation in state assessments.

Definition of Terms

Applied Learning Skills - The cross-curricular, skill-based standards students are expected to learn and acquire over the course of their K–12 education, including communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, research, reflection and evaluation, and collaboration.

Concurrent Enrollment – enrollment of a student in a dual enrollment course that is offered at the secondary school and taught by a secondary school teacher who is approved by the postsecondary institutions.

Content Standards - the knowledge and skills associated with a particular subject area that defines what students need to know and be able to do.

Course - a connected series of lessons and learning experiences that establish expectations defined by recognized content standards, provide students with opportunities to learn and practice skills, and include assessments of student knowledge and skills adequate to determine proficiency at the level of academic rigor required by relevant content standards.

Dual Enrollment – enrollment of a student in a secondary school while simultaneously enrolled part-time or full-time as a non-matriculating student at a postsecondary institution, such as a community college, college or university.

Expanded Learning Opportunities- learning that may take place beyond the school day or school setting, such as, but not limited to, dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, on-line learning, career and technical programs, and experiential or work-based learning. Expanded learning experiences must be approved by the school and the district, aligned to applicable state and national standards and of the scope and rigor sufficient to allow students to achieve high school level proficiency.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) - is a program or plan developed by a school based team to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law, receives specialized

instruction and related services in the least restrictive environment possible.

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) – a planning and monitoring tool that customizes and directs students’ goals and development in three domains: academic, career, and personal/social.

Performance-Based Diploma Assessment – multifaceted assignments that serve as a culminating demonstration of a student’s applied learning skills and knowledge of one or more content areas.

Proficiency – A defined level of knowledge and skills that are expected to be learned signaling that a student is well prepared to progress to the next lesson, course, grade level, or to receive a diploma.

I. Graduation Requirements

Students will demonstrate proficiency through a variety of learning opportunities, including but not limited to a minimum of 23 courses. Successful completion of a course shall include demonstration of the knowledge, skill and competencies outlined in the course learning objectives that are based in district approved state and national standards. To be eligible for a Mt. Hope High School diploma, all students must meet the requirements of (A) course completion, (B) graduation portfolio, and (C) standardized assessments as described below:

- A. Fourteen of the 23 required courses will be represented by four courses in English language arts, four courses in mathematics, three courses in science, and three courses in history/social studies aligned to state and national standards. Specific courses required for graduation in each content area will be listed in the Program of Study. The remaining courses will be based on each student’s personal, academic and career goals.

All students must demonstrate proficiency in media, visual or performing arts aligned to state and national standards. The Program of Study describes a variety of course options for achieving an Arts Proficiency.

All students must demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology. Technology is embedded in all required courses and the performance based graduation portfolio. Successful completion of these demonstrates proficiency in the technology standards.

All students are required to successfully complete 4 courses in health and physical education, as set forth in Rhode Island General Laws.

- B. All students must successfully complete a performance-based graduation

portfolio, as described in the Program of Study and the Student Graduation Portfolio Manual.

- C. All students must participate in state approved standardized assessments, as described by the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

Students can meet the requirements set forth in this section, inclusive of the 23 course requirements, through expanded learning opportunities such as dual enrol enrollment, concurrent enrollment, on-line learning, experiential and work based opportunities, and other non-traditional academic and career-readiness learning experiences. Approval of these learning opportunities as fulfilling the coursework graduation requirements listed above shall be determined by school and district administration, predicated on alignment to state adopted content-area standards or other relevant national or industry standards and breadth and depth of learning necessary to develop proficiency in the content area.

II. Assessment of Student Proficiency

Overall student proficiency will be determined through a composite measure of performance on course assessments, state approved assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science, and successful completion of a performance based graduation portfolio. Students who participate in the state alternate assessment and achieve modified proficiency standards, as stated in the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP) may be eligible for a diploma.

III. Personalization and Support

Each student, with support of their school counselors, parents and teachers, will use the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) process to reflect on and develop their own academic, career and personal/social goals. These goals will therefore be reflected in each student's choice of course work, performance-based graduation portfolio, and expanded learning opportunities. The ILP will document student progress towards grade level expectations, and any interventions and supports the student is receiving. Students will be provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate high school proficiency to meet graduation requirements.

IV. Optional Diploma Credentials

A. Council designation. Beginning with the class of 2021, students who meet the criteria to be set forth by the RI Council on Elementary and Secondary Education may receive a Council Designation on their diploma based on their achievement of a statewide literacy and numeracy standards.

B. Pathway Endorsement. As an enhancement to the diploma, students may choose to pursue a district approved pathway of interest by completing a series of related courses or learning experiences, including at least one advanced course or experiential learning opportunity. Students would also need to align their Graduation Portfolio with their topic of interest to earn an endorsement. Possible Pathway Endorsements include but are not limited to: STEM;

Marketing, Media, Communications; the Arts.

V. Appeals Process

Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to appeal graduation decisions through an appeals process that shall consider all valid sources of evidence that demonstrate and document student proficiency at a level commensurate with the requirements set forth in the regulations.

VI. Notification of Graduation Requirements

The BWRSD will notify students and parent(s)/guardian(s) of the graduation requirements not later than October 1 in the year in which students enter the ninth grade, or at the time of enrollment in the district. In the event that a student is in jeopardy of not earning a diploma, students and families will be notified of the student's academic status, the opportunity to meet and discuss the student's coursework, and supports and interventions that are available. The school will provide regular updates to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding progress being made.

ADOPTED: January 24, 1994

REVISED: July 17, 2006
May 19, 2008
April 28, 2014
September 22, 2014
July 24, 2017

REFERENCES: R.I. Title L Secondary Design, Chapter 6