

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Graduation Requirements Policy

No. 6104

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To meet the needs of a diverse and unique student population, Westerly Public Schools has developed a diploma system that builds upon the Rhode Island Model. Upon successful completion of the criteria outlined in this policy, students will achieve a Rhode Island Diploma, which may include a Commissioner’s Seal for high achievement on state assessments, a Seal of Bilingual Literacy for demonstrated performance in English and one other language, and/or a Guided Pathway endorsement in up to two areas. Requirements are as follows:

State/Local Requirement for Class of 2028 and beyond	Current WHS Class of 2028 and beyond requirements	Current WHS Class of 2026-27 requirements
State: Minimum of 20 credits	23 credits	23 credits
State: 4 English credits	4 English credits	4 English credits
State: 4 Math credits (including Algebra 1, Algebra 2*, Geometry, and a 4th year advanced math course)	4 Math credits (including Algebra 1, Algebra 2*, Geometry, and a 4th year advanced math course)	4 Math credits (including Algebra 1 and Geometry)
State: 3 Science credits (including 2 in lab sciences)	3 Science credits (including Physical Science or Physics, Biology, and Chemistry)	3 Science credits (including Physical Science or Physics, Biology, and Chemistry)
State: 3 Social Studies credits (including World History, US History and Civics)	3 Social Studies credits (including World History, US History and Civics)	3 Social Studies credits (including World History, US History and Civics)
State: 2 World Language credits* in the same language	2 World Language credits* in the same language	1 course in a Global Awareness course (i.e. a world language, World Affairs, World Cultures)
State: 1 additional College Preparatory course	3 elective credits	4.0 elective credits
State: Physical Education course each year	.5 PE course each year	.5 PE course each year
State: 1 Health course	.5 Health credit	.5 Health credit
State: 1 Computer Science course	.5 Computer Science credit	.5 Computer Science credit
State: 1 Art course	.5 Art credit	.5 Art credit
State: Financial Literacy proficiency	.5 Financial Literacy credit	.5 Financial Literacy credit

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State: Civic Action Project completed in middle and/or high school	<i>Proposed: Civic Action Project in grade 12</i>	NA
State: 1 Performance-Based Diploma Assessment	<i>Proposed: Civic Action Project in grade 12</i>	Senior Project (project, paper, presentation, portfolio)
State: Completed resume	Resume completed in ILP	NA
Local: 30 hours of service learning	<i>10 hours of community service; Other hours embedded in Civics Action Project</i>	30 hours of service learning
Local: Student must take WHS101	Student must take WHS 101	Student must take WHS 101
Local: Participation in state assessments (grade 10: PSAT10; grade 11: SAT)	Participation in state assessments (grade 10: PSAT10; grade 11: SAT)	Participation in state assessments (grade 10: PSAT10; grade 11: SAT)

*Students and their families may enroll in a RIDE approved readiness pathway

Early Graduation:

Students seeking early graduation must meet all state and local graduation requirements. Students must submit a written Early Graduation Plan to the principal no later than October 1 of the intended graduation school year that clearly outlines how all requirements will be completed.

The plan must include a timeline for completion of all requirements as listed above including the plan for completing the Performance-Based Diploma Assessment. Approval is contingent upon the principal's determination that the plan is feasible and aligned with district and Rhode Island Department of Education graduation requirements.

Appeals Process:

Parents/guardians may appeal an Early Graduation decision by submitting a written request to the superintendent of schools within ten days of notification. The superintendent will review the case and make a final decision within five days of receiving the written appeal.

Resource: <https://ride.ri.gov/students-families/ri-public-schools/diploma-system>

Adopted: January 21, 2026