

Comprehensive Assessment System

I. Policy Statement

Educators, parents and other stakeholders in public education all have the obligation and duty to ensure that our students meet or exceed the performance expectations and proficiency standards as defined by state standards, and as measured through state and local assessments. Upon graduation, our students must demonstrate college and career readiness. They must be adequately prepared to compete and excel in secondary and higher education settings, as well as training that leads to meaningful career opportunities requiring mastery of content learning and its application in real world settings.

In order to monitor and support the achievement of college and career readiness in our students, we will provide a Comprehensive Assessment System that is based upon applicable state and national standards, local classroom assessments, and standardized measures including state assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. A Comprehensive Assessment System is a coordinated plan for monitoring the academic achievement of students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The goal of the Comprehensive Assessment System is to increase student learning by producing actionable data, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and ensure that all students are making progress toward achieving learning goals. Research has shown that data-informed decision-making on the part of educators leads to greater student achievement. In addition, students benefit when they understand the criteria for success and receive regular, descriptive feedback on their progress toward their goals.

Curricula, instruction, and assessment for all students will be aligned to state and national standards, along with accompanying identified benchmarks which will serve as indicators of student proficiency, including those deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). To provide students, teachers, and parents with appropriate data to monitor student success, all students are required to participate in the designated local and state assessments appropriate to their grade level. This will include appropriate accommodations as required within an IEP and 504, and in accordance with other federal regulations.

II. Legal Authority

Title 1 of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires that each school district receiving federal funding is required to use the state academic assessments to determine whether the school is making adequate yearly progress.¹ School districts are required to attain a minimum student participation rate of 95 percent in the statewide assessment program.

The Rhode Island General Assembly empowers and requires the Rhode Island Board of Education and RIDE to implement a state assessment program which includes performance

standards and assessments of student performance. The Rhode Island General Assembly mandates that school committees, including the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee, develop educational policies to meet the needs of the community, to provide for and assure the implementation of federal and state laws and regulations, and to establish policies governing curriculum and courses of instruction.⁴

The Rhode Island General Assembly requires superintendents of schools to implement policies established by school committees and to comply with provisions of federal and state laws.

III. District's Adoption of the Comprehensive Assessment System

The Bristol Warren Regional School Committee hereby adopts the Comprehensive Assessment System, including but not limited to the state assessments. Students are hereby required to participate in all such required or designated assessments. There is no ability to opt out of state assessments. All students present will be required to participate.

IV. District Protocol

The Superintendent shall forthwith establish a districtwide protocol facilitating the terms of this policy. Consistent with applicable state law, rule, and guidance from RIDE, the Superintendent shall provide for alignment of appropriate curricula to the state standards.

V. Evaluation and Review

This policy shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and shall be automatically amended to conform to amendments and changes in applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. If any such automatic amendment shall occur, it shall be brought to the attention of the School Committee, as soon as possible, at a public meeting.

VI. Current State Assessment Program (subject to amendment from time to time):

The Rhode Island General Assembly has determined that state assessments be based upon the Rhode Island State Standards.

RIDE has identified the following assessments for the statewide assessment program:

- Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) administered to students in grades 3-8 in both English language arts (ELA) and math
- PSAT for all students in grade 10
- SAT for all students in grade 11
- Rhode Island Next Generation Science Assessments (NGSA) in grades 5,8 and 11
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessments for students with

significant disabilities in English language arts (ELA), and math in grades 3-8 and 11

- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) in science in grades 5, 8, and 11

[RI General Law 16-97-1.1, 16-97-8, 16-2-9 §§ \(a\) \(2\), \(3\) & \(20\)](#)

Adopted: July 13, 2015

Revised: June 15, 2026