Beyond Regents

Rethinking Graduation in New York State

What Families Need to Know About NY Inspires

What NYSED updates mean for graduation, assessment, and our work in Williamson

WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | OCTOBER 29, 2026

Remember When…

Graduation expectations have changed before—and they are changing again.



Current Graduation Requirements

Through December 2027 • Existing diploma pathways.

ADVANCED REGENTS

22 credits • additional coursework and examinations

ELA, 3 Math, 2 Science,
2 Social Studies Regents

REGENTS DIPLOMA

22 credits • required coursework and examinations

ELA, Math, Science,
Social Studies + pathway

LOCAL DIPLOMA

22 credits • eligible students

Final exam requirements governed by state rules

Additional Credentials & Seals: Biliteracy • Civic Readiness • CDOS

How Did We Get Here?

From statewide conversations to a plan for transformation.

2019

Graduation Measures Initiative

NYSED begins statewide conversations about reimagining graduation.

2023

Blue Ribbon Commission

Recommendations include a draft Portrait of a Graduate.

2024

NY Inspires Plan

Four transformations, including one diploma and multiple measures.

NY Inspires: Four Transformations

Four connected shifts shape New York's vision for graduation.

01

Portrait of a Graduate

02

Redefine Credits & Learning Experiences

03

Sunset Diploma Assessment Requirements

04

One New York State High School Diploma

Portrait of a Graduate

Knowledge, skills and mindsets that prepare students for what comes next.

Academically Prepared

A student applies reading, writing, math, and content knowledge to solve meaningful problems.

Critical Thinker & Problem Solver

A student researches an issue, evaluates evidence, and proposes a solution.

Effective Communicator & Collaborator

A student presents ideas clearly and works with others toward a shared goal.

Globally & Civically Engaged

A student explores community issues and participates in projects that make a difference.

Creative Innovator

A student who uses imagination, curiosity, & flexible thinking to develop new ideas, solve problems, and adapt to challenges.

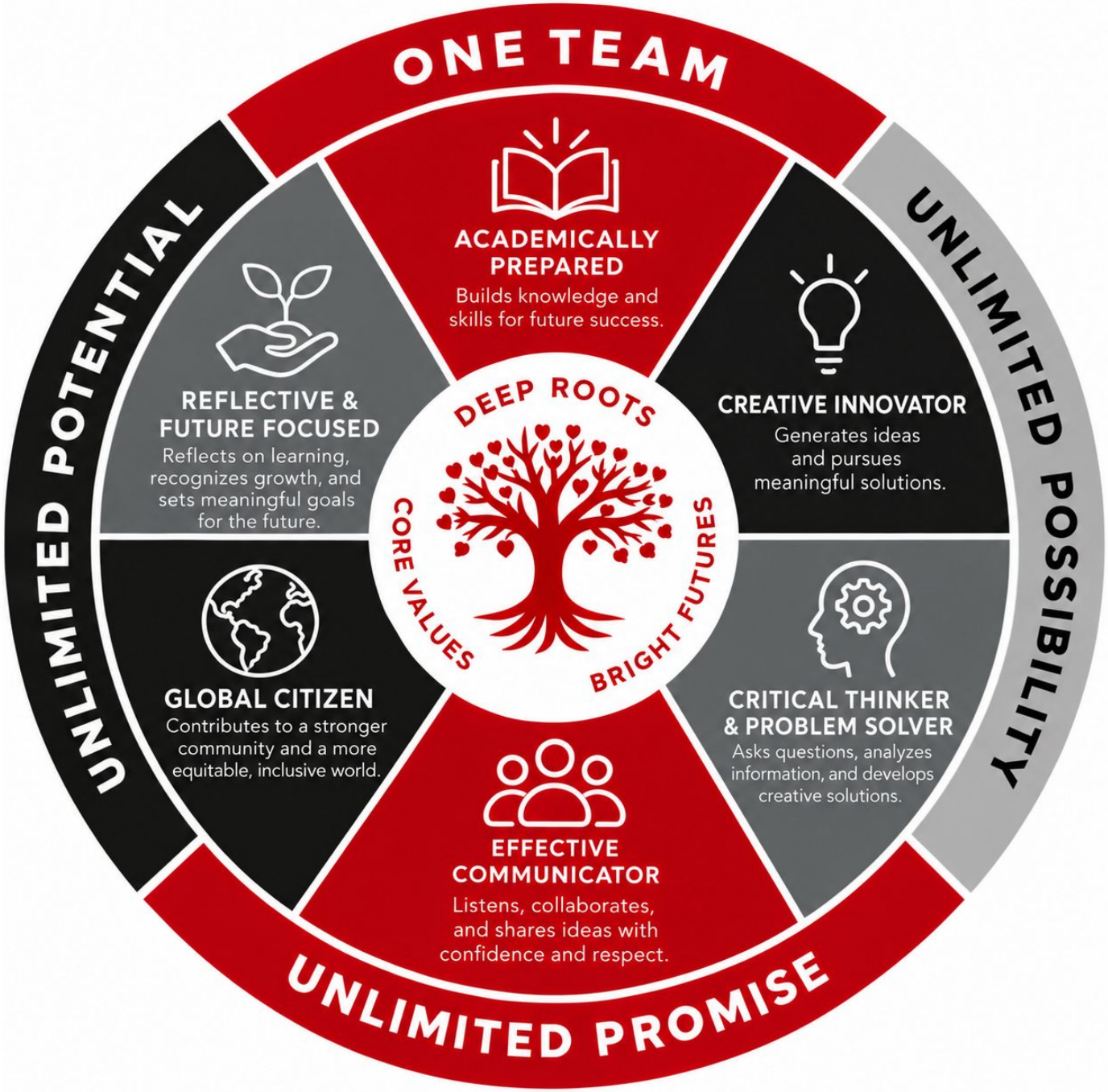
Reflective & Future Focused

A student who reflects on their learning, recognizes areas for growth, and sets meaningful goals for the future.

Williamson's Portrait emphasizes our community's vision of a future-ready graduate.

Williamson Central Schools

Portrait of a Graduate



Redefining Credits & Learning Experiences

A phased shift toward a competency-based graduation system.

2026

Personal Finance & Climate Education

Personal finance implementation begins in Grades 5–12.

2027–2028

Graduation Changes Proposed

One diploma and removal of Regents passing requirements, subject to approval.

2029–2030

Competency-Based System

Proposed new expectations begin with incoming Grade 9 students.

From Multi-Purpose Tool to Focused Measure

Clarifying what each assessment is designed to tell us.

CURRENT APPROACH

Regents Exams

A single examination system overloaded to serve three distinct functions:

1. **Learning Standards**
2. **Accountability**
3. **Readiness Evidence**

→

PROPOSED: DISTINCT & FOCUSED MEASURES

Regents Exams

Focused exclusively on providing **evidence of standards-based learning**.

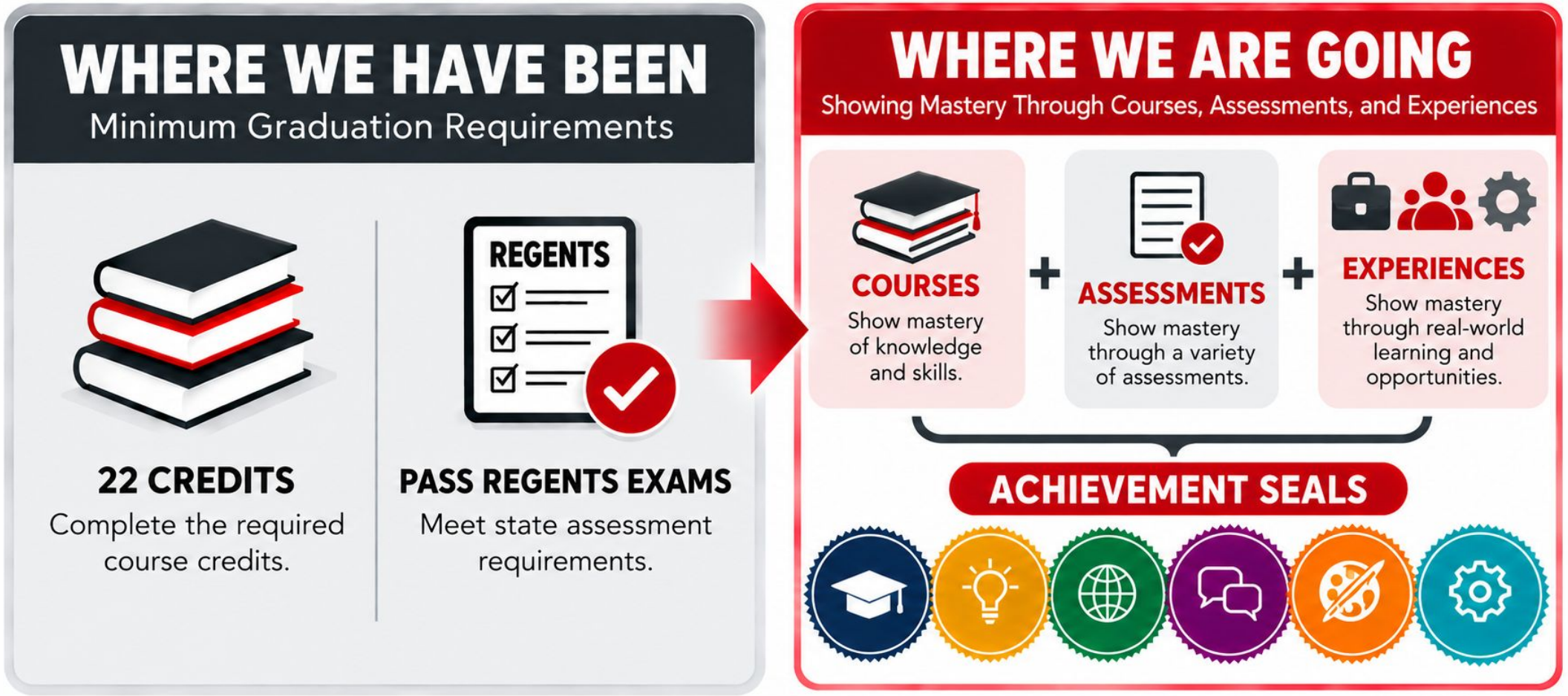
State Assessments

Dedicated to fulfilling **statewide accountability** metrics.

Local Assessment Strategy

Leveraging **multiple measures of readiness** tailored locally.

Regents exams will continue to provide evidence of student learning. What is changing is whether passing those exams determines graduation eligibility.



A System of Assessment Based on Competency

Multiple sources of evidence provide a fuller picture of learning.

1

Classroom Assessments

Knowledge during instruction

2

Student Work

Products and process over time

3

Performance-Based Learning

Application and authentic tasks

4

Educator Observations

What students do and explain

5

State Assessments

Common statewide evidence

The question shifts from “What test did the student pass?” to “What evidence makes learning visible?”

NY Inspires: What Is to Come

A single diploma with more ways to recognize achievement and readiness.

ONE DIPLOMA

One New York State high school diploma replaces separate diploma types.

ACHIEVEMENT SEALS

Opportunities to recognize additional achievements, competencies and interests.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Students demonstrate what they know and can do in multiple ways.

FUTURE READINESS

Graduation reflects academic, career, civic and life preparation.

What Is Williamson Doing to Prepare?

Thoughtful steps to ensure students are ready for college, careers and life.

Strengthening Teaching & Learning

Rethinking How Students Demonstrate Learning

Expanding Future-Ready Experiences

Including Our Community

Williamson is not waiting for graduation requirements to change.
We are already working to create more meaningful learning opportunities for every student.

What Does This Mean for My Child?

Students Graduating Before January 2028

- Current graduation requirements remain in effect.

Students Graduating January 2028 and Later

- Proposed changes would remove Regents passing requirements for graduation, subject to approval.

Students Entering Grade 9 in 2029–2030

- Proposed competency-based graduation requirements would begin with this cohort.

All Students

- Schools will continue teaching academic standards, assessing learning, and preparing students for their futures.
- Schools will be future focused in planning for a variety of learning experiences and opportunities for students

Opportunities to Get Involved

Join a committee to help guide the future of our district and students.

Help Shape the Future of Graduation

NY Inspires Transformation Committee

What should every Williamson student know and be able to do by graduation?

Meeting Dates: December 8, February 2, and April 6 (Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.)

Help Us Rethink Assessment

NY Inspires Assessment Committee

How can students show what they know beyond traditional tests?

Meeting Dates: December 9, February 3, and April 7 (Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.)

Interested in participating in one or more opportunities? Let Karen Hoody know!