
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Introduction:

Chariho Regional High School has a responsibility to provide access to expert and rigorous instruction so that all students have an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency. Students have a responsibility to actively and appropriately participate in and complete, with a demonstration of quality work, all facets of their program of studies. A Chariho Regional High School Diploma will be issued when all of the following academic credit, state assessment, and proficiency-based requirements have been met.

Academic Credit Requirements:

	Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014	Class of 2015
English	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3**	3**	3**	3**	3**
Social Studies	3	3	3	3	3
Science	3	3	3	3	3
Physical Education	1	1	1	1	1
Health	1	1	1	1	1
Fine/Performing Arts	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Electives	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
	24	24	24	24	24

* Specific course requirements are detailed in the Student Program of Studies Handbook.

**All students are required to complete a fourth course in which there is application of mathematical skills and concepts. Eligible courses include all courses offered by the mathematics department; Accounting I; Accounting II; Advanced Computer Programming; Advanced Placement Chemistry; Advanced Placement Economics, Astronomy; Chemistry; College Accounting; Introduction to Computer Programming; Landscape Design; Meteorology; Oceanography; Personal Finance I, Personal Finance II; and Physics. Math credit is awarded after successful completion of the following Career and Technical programs: Automotive and Diesel Technology; Business Management and Technology; Carpentry; Computer Technology; Cosmetology; Culinary Arts; Drafting and Design; Health Occupations; Hospitality, Travel and Tourism; Marine Technology.

Proficiency-based Requirements:

I. Graduation Portfolio: Students are required to successfully complete and present the electronic Graduation Portfolio***. Evidence of the following Expectations for Student Learning must be demonstrated:

- All students will acquire, analyze, and evaluate information and ideas to effectively solve problems.
- All students will effectively utilize literacy skills: writing, listening, viewing, speaking, and reading analysis and interpretation.
- All students will demonstrate technology literacy in all disciplines.
- All students will develop and exhibit an understanding of culture and the arts.
- All students will be self-directed learners effectively using ideas and information from various disciplines.
- All students will develop an understanding of their own strengths and learning styles and apply this knowledge in planning for their education and career.
- All students will analyze problems from a global perspective and contribute to society as responsible and skilled citizens.
- All students will work actively and cooperatively to achieve group goals.
- All students will make appropriate choices affecting their physical, social, and mental well-being.
- All students will treat others with dignity and respect.

The Graduation Portfolio will be considered a Portfolio of Distinction if a student exceeds the standard on at least eight of the Expectations for Student Learning. As an alternative, students scoring at the “proficient with distinction” (or other highest level designation) level on all subtests of the state assessment may include such documentation in The Graduation Portfolio, which, when complete, shall automatically qualify it as a Portfolio of Distinction.

So that students remain on a path to earn their diploma, Chariho Regional High School shall establish and enforce annual Graduation Portfolio requirements which shall detail the number and types of entries necessary to move to the subsequent grade level. Students who do not complete grade level portfolio requirements will not be allowed to participate in end-of-year activities.

Students participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System are required to meet the same requirements as all other students. However, academic entries should be based on the Alternative Grade Span Expectations. Non-academic entries may also be adjusted. Requirements in regards to the Graduation Portfolio must be adjusted according to written procedures established by the Director of Special Education.

Students with significant disabilities not participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System may also require adjustments to The Graduation Portfolio. Adjustments must be made according to written procedures established by the Director of Special Education.

Seniors must successfully complete and present their Graduation Portfolio to participate in senior activities (e.g., senior prom, picnic, awards presentations, etc.).

***Specific current requirements can be found on the Chariho Regional High School website at the Graduation Portfolio link.

Major Course Assessments: All students must take quarterly Major Course Assessments in all courses, except that these Assessments shall not be mandated in Advanced Placement courses. At least 50% of each assessment score in all courses must result from a performance-based component. Major Course Assessments will count for twenty-five percent (25%) of the quarterly course grade. (The quarterly course grades shall be averaged together to determine the final semester grade.)

With the exception of students being alternately assessed, students must pass Major Course Assessments to receive course credit for the following mandatory courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12, EPS, Biology, Modern World History, US History I, US History II, Health 9, Health 10, Health 11, Health 12. Students with significant disabilities not participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System may also require adjustments to Major Course Assessments. Adjustments must be made according to written procedures established by the Director of Special Education.

For those students who do not pass a Major Course Assessment, a grade of INC will be entered and no quarterly or semester grade will be issued. Following documented instruction (e.g., after-school assistance, tutoring, PLATO Lab), students may retake the Major Course Assessment once within ten school days of the issuance of the initial Major Course Assessment grade. After the ten school day period, either a 70 or the original grade will be recorded. If the student continues to lack a passing grade on a first or third quarter Major Course Assessment, a second opportunity to retake the assessment will be provided if the student scores 80 or higher on the first attempt of the second or fourth quarter Major Course Assessment.

State Assessments:

All students, except those participating in an alternate assessment because of their disability, must participate in state assessments and score at the ****minimum NECAP achievement level. State assessments will be administered in accord with a timeline established by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Students who fail to score at the ****minimum NECAP achievement level on state assessments in English and/or mathematics, as defined by the Rhode Island Department of Education, will be enrolled in a NECAP Math and/or NECAP English class in the second semester of their junior year and will retake state assessments in their senior year. The same will apply to seniors who, for a second time, fail to score at this level. Exceptions to the mandatory NECAP class requirement may be made for those students enrolled in special education programs; however, an IEP review must be immediately scheduled for students who fail to score at the minimum achievement level. Enrollment in a fourth year of mathematics may be required. While earned credits will not be adjusted and all graduation requirements must still be met, Grade 11 students who score at the minimum NECAP achievement level or higher on all subtests of the state assessment will automatically be categorized as seniors in the next school year even if they lack the prerequisite 18 credits.

Effective with the Class of 2012, students must score at the minimum NECAP achievement level or higher on mathematics and English subtests of the state assessments to earn a Chariho Regional High School diploma. A student not scoring at this level in his/her junior or senior year must be certified through alternate and documented assessments, including but not limited to those taken previously, by a reading or mathematics specialist as having demonstrated the minimum NECAP achievement level.

Effective with the Class of 2014, students must score at the minimum NECAP achievement level or higher on mathematics and English subtests of the state assessments to earn a Chariho Regional High School diploma. A student not scoring at the minimum NECAP achievement level in her/her junior or senior year must score at the equivalent of the minimum NECAP achievement level on a Regents-approved alternate assessment. If a student is unable to demonstrate achievement at this level through the state assessment or on a Regents-approved alternate assessment, a waiver may be requested of the Superintendent of Schools in accord with current regulations of the Board of Regents.

****current minimum NECAP achievement level is “partially proficient”

Transferring Students:

All requirements detailed in this policy apply to transferring students.

The following guidelines shall apply to transferring students in regard to The Graduation Portfolio:

- Students entering prior to the start of their junior year shall meet all requirements outlined in this policy.
- Students entering after the start of their junior year may choose to complete The Graduation Portfolio or those proficiency-based requirements from their previous high school, so long as the requirements of their previous high school were approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Students choosing to exercise the option to follow the proficiency-based guidelines of their previous high school must notify the principal, in writing (cosigned by parents if student is under the age of 18), at the time of enrollment.
- Individual situations not addressed by this policy will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The approval of the Superintendent of Schools is required for variations from this policy.

Appeals:

Appeals of graduation decisions shall be made, in writing, in accord with the Appeals Policy.

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