

Council Designations

Council Designations serve as a means to:

- Personalize the diploma
- Externally validate student achievement
- Allow for public recognition of specific skills
- Incentivize students to achieve beyond diploma requirements
- Encourage flexible and personalized high school learning experiences.

The following three Council Designations have been adopted by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and will be made available to students who meet the defined criteria for each, beginning with the graduating class of 2021:

The **Commissioner's Seal Council Designation** certifies that a student is proficient in standards aligned to high school expectations in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as confirmed by external evidence.

The **Seal of Biliteracy Council Designation** certifies that a student has demonstrated skill in the use of the English language and one or more other world languages.

The **Pathway Endorsement Council Designation** certifies that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.

Pathway Endorsement Council Designations

To earn a Pathway Endorsement, students must successfully complete three components: (1) academic study; (2) career and interest engagement; and (3) application of skills demonstrated through the performance-based diploma assessment. Pathway Endorsements may be earned in six discipline areas:

- The Arts Pathway Endorsement
- Business and Industry Pathway Endorsement
- Humanities and World Languages Pathway Endorsement
- Public Service Pathway Endorsement
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Pathway Endorsement
- Teaching Pathway Endorsement



Academic Study: Students must successfully complete three (3) independent, connected courses, characterized by:

- Increased complexity, and complementary or cumulative content
- Deep learning with increased level of specialization that builds coherence of the topic through coursework
- One or more courses must be advanced or experiential
- Two of three courses should be outside of the typical courses for a particular content area or area of study suggested for all students.

Career or Interest Engagement: Students must successfully complete a career and interest engagement experience, characterized by:

- Acquisition of knowledge and skills related to the pathway;
- Meaningful contact with and opportunities to work alongside professional practitioners in the field; and

- Responsibilities, impact, and/ or opportunities to practice in the area of interest or career field that deepens learning of the content area.

This work-based learning experience should provide students with real-world experiences where they can apply and develop their academic, technical, and professional skills. Work-based learning can occur through a variety of different experiences, including internships, apprenticeships, service learning projects, school-based enterprises, and industry projects. See the recently released Governor's Workforce Board Work-Based Learning Guidance for more information on work-based learning activities, standards and guidance: www.prepare-ri.org/wbl

Application of Skills through Performance Based Diploma Assessment: Students must successfully complete a performance-based diploma assessment by aligning their demonstration of knowledge to the topic that they studied. Students must apply and demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained through their pathway coursework and chosen career/ interest engagement experience and reflect on the pathway experience. Students are already expected to complete a performance-based diploma assessment (portfolio senior project/ exhibition, capstone product, etc.) as part of their high school graduation requirements. Tying the performance-based graduation assessment to the Pathway Endorsement area of study links already existing graduation requirements to an evaluation of deep learning and validates personalization. In most cases, it is expected that this pathway-aligned diploma assessment will fulfill the state minimum graduation requirement of one performance-based diploma assessment (starting with the class of 2021).

Additional guidance and information regarding Council Designations, graduation requirements and other components of the Secondary School Regulations is available at www.ride.ri.gov/DiplomaSystem