

Important Information about graduation and NECAP for Parents and Families

All of us share a common goal: We want to be sure that your child earns a high-school diploma and is ready for success in college and in challenging careers.

Our Diploma System is designed to ensure that our graduates are ready for success beyond high school.

To earn a diploma, students must:

- Complete a minimum of 20 courses;
- Complete two “performance-based” demonstrations of proficiency, such as senior projects or electronic portfolios of their work; and
- Attain the scoring level of “partially proficient” on our grade-11 statewide assessments *or* show improvement when they retake the assessments in their senior year.

If your child was one of the high-school seniors who had to retake the state assessments (NECAPs) last October, you will receive a report this month (January 2014) on your child’s performance.

This report will show whether your child met the state-assessment graduation requirement, either by attaining the scoring level of partially proficient or by making significant improvement.

If your child met this requirement – congratulations! Please make sure your child continues to work hard this semester to meet all requirements in our Diploma System in order to earn a diploma this spring.

If your child has not yet met this graduation requirement, do not despair. Your child still has several opportunities to meet all graduation requirements and earn a diploma this spring.

Your next step should be to meet with your child’s school counselor, advisor, or principal to discuss options available.

These options include: retaking the NECAP assessment again this spring or successfully completing any of several other approved assessments.

Some students may also be eligible for a waiver from this graduation requirement, if standardized assessments are not an appropriate way to measure their achievement level.

If your child is not ready to earn a diploma this spring, your school will provide additional support during a fifth year of instruction, or for some students until the age of 21. You may also want to consider other options, such as earning industry-recognized or other credentials.

We encourage you to stay involved. Call your child’s school and set up an appointment to discuss his or her progress.

The teachers and leaders in your child’s school are committed to providing all students with high-quality, challenging instruction that will prepare them for success in whatever course in life they choose to pursue.