

RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements:
RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Guidance for
Implementation & Resources

Revised September 2023

RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements

FAQs, Guidance, and Resources related to RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathways

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If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please reach out to ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV.

Overview

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is committed to ensuring all students have access to course offerings with high-quality curriculum and instruction as essential components of a rigorous education that prepares every student for success in college and their career. On November 15, 2022, the R.I. Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved [Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements](#) for all R.I. students. RIDE's adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements presents an opportunity for reimagining high school in Rhode Island.

The overarching goal of RIDE's Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements is to ensure all students graduate with open doors to create their future. Every student should participate in academically rigorous coursework during high school regardless of their plans for postsecondary ([Achieve, 2004](#)). To accomplish this goal, RIDE has adopted increased alignment between R.I.'s high school graduation requirements and the college admissions requirements at R.I.'s public 2- and 4- year colleges and universities. Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements set the default expectation that all students will graduate having earned:

- 4 credits in English Language Arts
- 4 credits in math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- 3 credits in science, including 2 lab sciences
- 3 credits in history/social studies
- 2 credits in world language
- 1 additional college preparatory credit
- 3 credits in art, computer science, and health and physical education.

Students must also demonstrate proficiency in Civics, Financial Literacy, and Computer Science. Proficiency in these subject areas can be demonstrated in a variety of ways. In addition to a standalone course, students may demonstrate proficiency via assessment or project.

RIDE recognizes that college readiness *alone* is insufficient to prepare our students to graduate with open doors to their futures and that there are many real challenges posed by requiring college and career readiness aligned coursework for all students. In fact, the majority of college going students will need to work to support themselves before earning a postsecondary degree.

For this reason, RIDE's Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements establish an informed parental/guardian consent process to provide flexibility for unique student circumstances to complete alternate course work in place of one or more college and career readiness credit requirements. Students, through a process which ensures the informed consent of their parent/guardian, may enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more required credits for graduation. Readiness Pathways (either single credits, or credit sequences) will focus on developing the academic and technical skills needed for a successful transition to employment and shall be aligned to the student's [Individualized Learning Plan](#).

These revised requirements will establish an education system which ensures all students, by default, are enrolled in the high school coursework that will graduate them prepared for both college and career. This system provides flexibility for students for whom the full range of college and career ready coursework may not be right or necessary. This system leaves the decision to *not* complete college and

career ready coursework up to the student and their parent/guardian only after that student and their parent/guardian have fully understood the opportunities that will potentially no longer be accessible to that student upon graduation. This system will ensure no student graduates *unintentionally unprepared* for their college and career goals upon graduating from an R.I. high school.

One Diploma

Rhode Island is committed to one diploma for all students. The adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements eliminates the option for students to obtain a certificate in place of a diploma for graduation purposes. Students who enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credits for graduation who graduate from an R.I. high school will receive the same R.I. high school diploma as their peers.

Aligned to Students Passions and Goals

The selected RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway credit or credit sequences in which a student enrolls must be connected to that students' college/career goals and aspirations as identified in their Individual Learning Plan and must support their graduating ready to achieve those college/career goals.

Commitment to Equity

Completion of college and career ready coursework varies across student groups. For example, in a representative sample of Rhode Island's graduating Class of 2019, while 52% of all students completed the courses necessary for college eligibility, this number was only 12% for Differently Abled Students (DAS). Research demonstrates that this "12%" should be reversed, and that if expectations, access, targeted supports, and instructional accommodations are appropriately in place for DAS, 85-90% of DAS can meet the graduation requirements in place for all students ([Achieve, 2013](#)).

Completion of college and career ready coursework also varies by gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and Multilingual Learner status. We know that these disparities will not immediately be eliminated upon the adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements, but we must do better as a state in supporting all students to graduate ready to create their own futures.

While the informed parental consent process to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credits required for graduation has been developed to provide additional flexibility for students, no student or student group should be categorically enrolled in or encouraged to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway because of any aspect of their identity or circumstance. RIDE will annually review, approve, and publish approved readiness pathways, and their outcomes. This will include disaggregated data. School schedules and the availability of courses shall not be a driving factor in a student's decision to enroll in a readiness pathway. All students should be encouraged and supported to complete college and career-ready coursework before considering enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Informed Parental/Guardian Consent Form:**Algebra II**

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students will have the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of completing Algebra II. This readiness pathway may satisfy the math requirement for graduation in place of Algebra II for all students, regardless of participation in CTE or Dual Enrollment.

While the RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II may qualify as an alternative to Algebra II, it is important to note that this may limit a students' eligibility for attending the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and majority of the other in state and regional colleges and universities that Rhode Island student's matriculate into. URI, RIC, and the majority of regional colleges require that students complete Algebra II and that this is reflected on their high school transcript. Enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II may also increase the likelihood for a student needing to participate in remedial math coursework, not funded through Rhode Island Promise, upon enrolling in the Community College of Rhode Island.

Before allowing your student to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II, please ensure that this decision supports the student's goals and aspirations for after high school.

To enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II, the following formal informed parental consent process must be completed:

- ☐ The student's career and course plan and postsecondary goals and aspirations as identified in their Individual Learning Plan (ILP) are reviewed by the student and their parent/guardian,
- ☐ The opportunities a student may be forgoing by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway are reviewed in both conversation and via a RIDE-developed virtual training for families and students,
- ☐ The student's parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II,
- ☐ The school in which the student is enrolled must receive and keep on file a signed copy of this informed consent form, and
- ☐ The student, the student's parent/guardian, the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) and applicable representation from school-level support staff (e.g. content teacher, special education teacher, multilingual learner specialist, tutor) shall meet to discuss the student's progress;
 - The meeting with the parent/guardian and student may be virtual, as needed;

- If a parent/guardian does not attend a meeting as identified above after receiving three (3) requests, the school shall document they have communicated the information in the consent form to the student.

PARENT/STUDENT CONSENT TO ENROLL

I HEREBY RECOGNIZE THAT COMPLETING THE RIDE-APPROVED READINESS PATHWAY INSTEAD OF ALGEBRA II TO SATISFY MY DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS MAY NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY WILL IMPACT ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, AND MOST REGIONAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AS WELL AS ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT IN PARTICULAR COLLEGE COURSES OR MAJORS. ADDITIONALLY, BY ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY STUDENTS MAY INCUR AN INCREASED COST OF ENROLLMENT AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND AS STUDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE REMEDIAL COURSEWORK THAT IS NOT FUNDED BY THE RHODE ISLAND ROMISE SCHOLARSHIP.

Credit(s) being substituted:	RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway substitution:
E.g.: Algebra II	E.g.: Statistics

Student Name - Printed

Student's Signature

_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

_____ Date _____

Date filed by school and/or district: _____

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Parent/Guardian and Educator Guide:
Algebra II

Rhode Island Math Requirement for Graduation

Pursuant to 200-RICR-20-10-2 (Secondary Regulations) §2.3.1(C), to earn a Rhode Island High School Diploma students must complete at minimum 20 credits. These 20 credits include at least 4 mathematics credits and require that all students complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Pursuant to 200-RICR-20-10-2 §2.3.1(D), students enrolled in and are on-track to complete a high-skill, high-growth CTE program, and/or a full-time dual enrollment program may receive flexibility on the 20 credits required to earn a Rhode Island High School Diploma. These students must complete at least 3 mathematics credits, specifically requiring them to complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Credit Substitutions for Algebra II

A student earns Algebra II credit when they have demonstrated proficiency in the required content standards for Algebra II. Students may receive modification to support their completion of Algebra II, such as taking the subject over 2 years, without requesting a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.

RIDE will conduct an annual process to identify and approve Readiness Pathway offerings. During this annual review process RIDE will also provide updated School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) code guidance related to these courses.

A student who enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II is required to complete a minimum of two (2) math credits including Algebra I, Geometry and two (2) additional math credits. The two additional math credits will be aligned to the needs and goals of the individual student, and may be selected from a list of RIDE-Approved readiness credits. Below is an example list of RIDE-Approved credit substitutes for Algebra II:*

Credit Name
Statistics
Probability and Statistics
Mathematical Modeling
Data Science
Discrete/Finite Math

If there is a course or credit that you believe should be added to the RIDE-approved list of readiness-pathway credits in place of students taking algebra II, please complete [this form](#).

RIDE-Approved Math Credit Sequences

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total Math Credits
These math credit sequences do not require students to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Advanced Math	4
	Integrated Math I	Integrated Math II	Integrated Math III	Advanced Math	4
	Geometry <i>(Algebra I completed in Middle School)</i>	Algebra II	Advanced Math	Advanced Math	4
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	N/A – Student is enrolled in and on track to complete a full time CTE or Dual Enrollment Program	3
	Geometry <i>(Algebra I completed in Middle School)</i>	Algebra II	Advanced Math	N/A – Student is enrolled in and on track to complete a full time CTE or Dual Enrollment Program	3
	Algebra II (Algebra I and Geometry completed in Middle School)	Advanced math	Advanced Math	Advanced math	4
	Algebra II (Algebra I and Geometry completed in Middle School)	Advanced math	Advanced Math	N/A – Student is enrolled in and on track to complete a full time CTE or Dual Enrollment Program	3

The following math credit sequence requires that a student enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway	Algebra I	Geometry	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu / Advanced Math	4
	Algebra I	Geometry	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu / Advanced Math	Algebra II	4
	Integrated Math I	Integrated Math II	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu / Advanced Math	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu / Advanced Math	4
	Algebra I	Geometry	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Math Menu / Advanced Math	N/A – Student is enrolled in and on track to complete a full time CTE or Dual Enrollment Program	3
	Algebra I (A)	Algebra I (B)	Geometry	Algebra II	3 A student would need to seek at least one additional mathematics credit to fulfil the 4-credit statewide graduation requirement.

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway – Informed Parental/Guardian Consent Form
World Language

Rhode Island World Language Requirement for Graduation

Pursuant to 200-RICR-20-10-2 (Secondary Regulations) §2.3.1(C), to earn an Rhode Island High School Diploma students must complete at minimum 20 credits. These 20 credits include at minimum 2 credits of world language in the same world language.

Credit Substitutions for World Language (first and/or second sequential credit)

RIDE will conduct an annual process, to identify and approve Readiness Pathway offerings. During this annual review process, RIDE will also provide updated SCED code guidance related to these courses.

A student who enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits is required to substitute one or both required credits for one or two Career and Technical Education or work-based learning credits.

If there is a course or credit that you believe should be added to the RIDE-approved list of readiness-pathway credits in place of students taking one or both required credits of world language, please complete [this form](#).

Process for Informed Parental Consent to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits*

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students will have the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of completing one or more of the 2 required credits in world language. This readiness pathway may satisfy the world language requirement for graduation for all students.

While the RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required credits in world language may qualify as an alternative to the world language requirement for graduation, it is important to note that this may limit a students' eligibility for attending the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and majority of the other in state and regional colleges and universities that Rhode Island student's matriculate into. URI, RIC, and the majority of regional colleges require that students complete 2 units of world language in the same language and that this is reflected on their high school transcript.

Before allowing your student to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits please ensure that this decision supports the student's goals and aspirations for after high school.

To enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits, the following formal informed parental consent process must be completed:

- ☐ The student's career and course plan and postsecondary goals and aspirations as identified in their Individual Learning Plan (ILP) are reviewed by the student and their parent/guardian,
- ☐ The opportunities a student may be forgoing by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway are reviewed in both conversation and via a RIDE-developed virtual training for families and students,

- ☐ The student’s parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of world language,
- ☐ The school in which the student is enrolled must receive and keep on file a signed copy of this informed consent form, and
- ☐ The student, the student’s parent/guardian, the student’s counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) and applicable representation from school-level support staff (e.g. content teacher, special education teacher, multilingual learner specialist, tutor) shall meet to discuss the student’s progress);
 - The meeting with the parent/guardian and student may be virtual, as needed;
 - If a parent/guardian does not attend a meeting as identified above after receiving three (3) requests, the school shall document they have communicated the information in the consent form to the student.

PARENT/STUDENT CONSENT TO ENROLL

I HEREBY RECOGNIZE THAT COMPLETING THE RIDE-APPROVED READINESS PATHWAY INSTEAD OF ONE OR BOTH WORLD LANGUAGE CREDITS TO SATISFY MY DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS MAY NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY WILL IMPACT ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, AND MOST REGIONAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AS WELL AS ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT IN PARTICULAR COLLEGE COURSES OR MAJORS. ADDITIONALLY, BY ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY STUDENTS MAY INCUR AN INCREASED COST OF ENROLLMENT AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND AS STUDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE REMEDIAL COURSEWORK THAT IS NOT FUNDED BY THE RHODE ISLAND ROMISE SCHOLARSHIP.

Credit(s) being substituted:	RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway substitution:
E.g.: Algebra II	E.g.: Statistics

Student Name - Printed

Student’s Signature

_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian’s Signature

_____ Date _____

Date filed by school and/or district: _____

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Parent/Guardian and Educator Guide:
World Language Credits

World Language Graduation Requirement Overview:

The adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements set the default expectation that all students will complete two credits of world language (consecutive levels, in the same language) to graduate.

Students may complete one credit of world language in middle school, and this credit must be reflected on their high school transcript. Regardless of the number of credits of world language a student completes in middle school, the student is required to complete at least one additional credit of world language in high school. This is required for high school graduation and will ensure students graduate eligible for admission at the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC) and majority of the regional colleges and universities. Students are encouraged to participate in advanced learning experiences beyond the minimum requirement set by the state.

High school students may also demonstrate proficiency via assessment to obtain world language credits. This particularly applies to multilingual learners, students who participated in dual-language programs during grades K-8, and any student who participated in world language learning experiences beyond the minimum 2-credit requirement before entering high school. If a student demonstrates proficiency via assessment to earn world language credit, these credits must be reflected on the student's high school transcript.

All students have the opportunity, with the informed consent of their parent/guardian, to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credits for graduation. While all students and are encouraged to complete the two required credits of world language in order to graduate with open doors, this flexibility allows parents/guardians to enroll their student in alternate coursework aligned to the goals and aspirations they have identified in their [Individual Learning Plan](#).

A student who enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits is required to substitute one or both required credits for one or two RIDE-Approved Career and Technical Education credits.

If there is a course or credit that you believe should be added to the RIDE-approved list of readiness-pathway credits in place of students taking one or both required credits of World Language, please complete [this form](#).

Allowable Grade 9-12 World Language Credit Sequences:

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total Credits
Approved course sequences for students beginning world language study in high school (These world language credit sequences do not require students to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway)	World Language (first sequential credit)	World Language (second sequential credit)	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and may choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and may choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	2+
	N/A	World Language (first sequential credit)	World Language (second sequential credit)	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and can choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	2+
	N/A	N/A	World Language (first sequential level)	World Language (second sequential level)	2
Approved course sequences for students continuing world language study into high school (These world language credit sequences do not require students to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway)	World Language (second sequential level) - student completed first world language sequential credit in middle school)	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and may choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and may choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	N/A - Student has completed world language requirement for graduation and may choose to continue onto advanced world language coursework.	2+ <i>Completion of world language (first sequential credit) in the 8th grade must be reflected on the student's high school transcript.</i>
	All students, including multilingual learners, may demonstrate proficiency via assessment (E.g., STAMP, AAPPL, ASLPI, AP World Language, OPI and WPT, etc.) to earn the number of credits commensurate with their demonstrated proficiency level to fulfill the world language graduation requirement. This flexibility particularly applies to multilingual learners, students who participated in dual-language programs during grades K-8, and any student who participated				2-4

	in world language learning experiences beyond the minimum 2-credit requirement before entering high school.				
These credit sequences require that a student enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway through the informed consent of their parent/ guardian.	N/A	N/A	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Menu in place of world language	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Menu in place of world language	N/A
	N/A	World Language (first sequential credit)	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Menu in place of world language		1
	World Language (first sequential credit)	N/A	Selection from RIDE-Approved Readiness Menu in place of world language		1

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway – Informed Parental/Guardian Consent Form
General Substitution Form

Rhode Island Credit Requirements for Graduation

Pursuant to 200-RICR-20-10-2 (Secondary Regulations) §2.3.1, to earn a Rhode Island High School Diploma students must complete at minimum 20 credits. The credits must include the following content area credits:

- Four credits of English language arts;
- Four credits of math including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry;
- Three credits of science including two lab sciences;
- Three credits of history/social studies;
- Two credits of World Languages in the same World Language;
- One additional credit of college preparatory coursework; and
- Pursuant to LEA policies and applicable state law, the additional three required credits shall include the arts, computer science, and physical education and health

Rhode Island Proficiency Requirements for Graduation

Pursuant to Secondary Regulations §2.3.2, to earn a Rhode Island High School Diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in Civics, Financial Literacy, and Computer Science. Proficiency in these subject areas can be demonstrated in a variety of ways. In addition to a standalone course, students may demonstrate proficiency via assessment or project.

Process for Informed Parental Consent to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway one or more credit requirements for graduation*

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students will have the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of completing one or more credit requirements for graduation. This readiness pathway may satisfy credit requirements for any student for graduation. This readiness-pathway is *not applicable* to the required proficiencies that students must demonstrate for graduation purposes (civics, financial literacy, and computer science).

While the RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credit requirements for graduation may qualify as an alternative for graduation from a R.I. high school, it is important to note that this may limit a students' eligibility for attending the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and majority of the regional colleges and universities that Rhode Island student's matriculate into. URI, RIC, and the majority of regional colleges require that students complete the credit requirements defined in §2.3.1I of the secondary regulations, and their completion is reflected on their high school transcript. Enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more of the credit requirements for graduation may also increase the likelihood for a student needing to participate in remedial coursework, not funded through Rhode Island Promise, upon enrolling in the Community College of Rhode Island.

Before allowing your student to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more of the credit requirements for graduation, please ensure that this decision supports the student's goals and aspirations for after high school.

To enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credit requirements for graduation, the following formal informed parental consent process must be completed:

- ☐ The student's career and course plan and postsecondary goals and aspirations as identified in their Individual Learning Plan (ILP) are reviewed by the student and their parent/guardian,
- ☐ The opportunities a student may be forgoing by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway are reviewed in both conversation and via a RIDE-developed virtual training for families and students,
- ☐ The student's parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway,
- ☐ The school in which the student is enrolled must receive and keep on file a signed copy of this informed consent form, and
- ☐ The student, the student's parent/guardian, the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) and applicable representation from school-level support staff (e.g. content teacher, special education teacher, multilingual learner specialist, tutor) shall meet to discuss the student's progress);
 - The meeting with the parent/guardian and student may be virtual, as needed;
 - If a parent/guardian does not attend a meeting as identified above after receiving three (3) requests, the school shall document they have communicated the information in the consent form to the student.

PARENT/STUDENT CONSENT TO ENROLL

I HEREBY RECOGNIZE THAT COMPLETING THE RIDE-APPROVED READINESS PATHWAY INSTEAD OF ONE OR MORE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION TO SATISFY MY DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS MAY NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY WILL IMPACT ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, AND MOST REGIONAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AS WELL AS ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT IN PARTICULAR COLLEGE COURSES OR MAJORS. ADDITIONALLY, BY ENROLLING IN THIS PATHWAY STUDENTS MAY INCUR AN INCREASED COST OF ENROLLMENT AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND AS STUDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE REMEDIAL COURSEWORK THAT IS NOT FUNDED BY THE RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP.

Credit(s) being substituted:	RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway substitution:
E.g.: Algebra II	E.g.: Statistics

Student Name – Printed

Student's Signature

_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

_____ Date _____

Date filed by school and/or district: _____

RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Parent/Guardian and Educator Guide:
General Substitution of One or More Credits Required for Graduation

A student earns academic credit when they demonstrate proficiency (e.g., when they meet the level of knowledge) as defined by relevant content standards. Content **standards describe the knowledge and skills that students should attain in a certain subject or content area.**

Students must receive appropriate modification to support their completion of any credit required for graduation, such as receiving specially designed instruction, IEP and 504 accommodations, MLL supports, etc., without requesting a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.

A student who enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more credits required for graduation must enroll in approved coursework that aligns with their college/career goals as identified in the Individual Learning Plan.

If there is a course or credit that you believe should be added to the RIDE-approved list of readiness-pathway credits in place of students taking algebra II, please reach out to ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV.

Allowable Grade 9-12 Credit Substitutions

	RIDE credit requirement	Is a student allowed to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more content area credits?
English	4	No
Math	4 including AGA	Yes – A student may enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II. Students will still be required to complete 4 credits of math during their high school experience.
Science	3 including 2 lab sciences	Yes – A student may substitute one or both lab science credits for non-lab science. Students will still be required to complete 3 credits of science.
History/Social Studies	3	No
World Language	2 in the same language	Yes – A student may enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness pathway in place of one or both required World Language credits.
Additional College Prep	1	Yes – A student may enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness pathway in place of the required additional college preparatory unit.

Process for RIDE-Approval and Review of Readiness Pathways

Initial RIDE-Approval Process of Readiness Pathways

RIDE will release an initial list of RIDE-Approved Readiness credits and credit sequences before September 2023. RIDE is developing this list by working with school leaders and educators to conduct an analysis of existing credit offerings, reviewing best practices across the nation, and working with R.I.'s higher education institutions to ensure alignment.

The initial list of RIDE-approved readiness pathway credits will outline the credit options that students may pursue, through the informed consent of their parent/guardian, that are more closely aligned to their college/career goals. All students should be encouraged and supported to complete college and career-ready coursework before considering enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.

Application for RIDE-Approval of Local Proposed Readiness Pathways

RIDE will annually review, approve, and publish approved readiness pathways. RIDE's initial list of approved readiness pathways will most likely not encompass the wide array of rigorous credit offerings that can be aligned to students' goals and aspirations. For this reason, schools and districts may apply to RIDE for approval of readiness pathway credits/credit sequences in addition to those that are initially approved by RIDE.

To apply for approval, complete [this online form](#) which will be reviewed by the RIDE Reimagining High School Office. RIDE staff may reach out for additional information before making a recommendation for approval. Approval of additional readiness pathway courses for the 2024-2025 school year will be approved on a rolling basis and before March 2024.

Annual Review of RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Utilization

RIDE will annually review, approve, and publish approved readiness pathways, and their outcomes. This will include disaggregated data. The goal of this analysis will be to ensure no student group is disproportionately being enrolled in RIDE-approved readiness pathways in place of the default college and career ready coursework expectations. This disaggregated analysis will be made publicly available.

RIDE-approved readiness pathway utilization and outcomes will be disaggregated by race/ethnicity, free and reduced priced lunch status, multilingual learner status, and disability status.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway?
 - Students, through the informed consent of their parent/guardian, have the opportunity to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more required credits for graduation. Readiness Pathways (either single credits, or credit sequences) will focus on developing the academic and technical skills needed for a successful transition to employment and shall be aligned to the student's Individualized Learning Plan.
2. Why did RIDE provide students the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway?



- Initially, RIDE proposed that all students would be required to complete college and career ready coursework with little flexibilities for students to take alternate coursework in order to graduate. RIDE heard from stakeholders in the field, including students, parents, educators and school and district leaders, that there needed to be additional flexibility built in for the unique situations where college and career ready coursework is not the right fit for a particular student.
3. What does *informed* consent mean in this context? What information must parents/guardians be aware of before enrolling their student in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway?
- When a student and their parent/guardian are making the decision to potentially enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway, it is vital that the student and their parent/guardian are informed of and understand the potential postsecondary opportunities that may no longer be available to that student upon graduating if they do not complete the full range of college and career coursework.
For example: If a student is considering enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II it is important that the student and their parent/guardian understand that if the student does not complete Algebra II in high school, they will not be considered eligible for admission at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the majority of regional 4-year colleges and universities; and they will likely be required to complete remedial coursework upon enrollment in the Community College of Rhode Island which would not be financially covered by [R.I. Promise Program](#).
4. What if a student's parent/guardian is unresponsive to the request of the student/school/district to participate in the informed consent process?
- If a parent/guardian does not attend a meeting as identified above after receiving three (3) requests, the school shall document they have communicated the information on the parental/guardian consent form to the student. The goal of this process is to ensure that the student fully comprehends the opportunities which they may be forgoing by enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.
5. Can a school or district choose **not** to allow students to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more required credits for graduation?
- Yes, this is allowable.
6. Can a student that enrolled in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway switch back to the default college and career ready range of coursework?
- Yes, this is allowable. Though in some cases, depending on the amount of time left in a students' high school experience, "switching back" into the full range of college and career coursework may not be feasible in a 4-year high school experience. For this reason, the student's parent guardian, through informed consent process, documented their understanding of this potential risk.
For example: If a student enrolled in RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of the 2 required credits of world language, it would be extremely difficult for the student in



their senior year to “switch back” into the full range of college and career ready coursework and complete 2 credits of world language in one school year.

7. What are the diploma policies that other states have adopted?

- We have identified 4 different types of diploma policies states have adopted. Some states have adopted a diploma policy that establishes full alignment between high school graduation requirements and college and career readiness requirements, with no flexibility for students to take alternate coursework to graduate. Another diploma policy option that some states currently have in place does not establish any alignment between high school graduation requirements and college and career readiness requirements. This second diploma policy (no alignment to college and career readiness requirements) is the system R.I. had in place before adopting Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements.
- Several states have adopted a diploma policy which does not establish default alignment between high school graduation requirements and college and career readiness requirements but provides students the opportunity to opt-in to meet college and career ready requirements. In this policy model, there is no expectation that schools offer college and career ready experiences to all students. This policy model requires that students and/or their families advocate on their own behalf to access the learning experiences necessary for success in college and career.
- The final diploma policy option that multiple states have adopted establishes the default expectation that all students will be enrolled in the learning experiences that will graduate them ready for both college and career and includes flexibility so that students may choose to enroll in alternate coursework in place of one or more college and career readiness requirements. With the adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements, R.I. has chosen to adopt this diploma policy. All R.I. students will, by default, be expected to meet college and career readiness requirements, but have the opportunity (through the informed consent of their parent/guardian) to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or more required credits for graduation. Within this diploma policy, no student or student’s family will be required to advocate for accessing college and career-ready learning experiences and this will ensure that no student graduates from a R.I. high school unintentionally unprepared to achieve their postsecondary goals.

8. Can a student preemptively enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in the 8th grade?

- Students and their families may begin the informed consent process to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway as schedule determinations are being made for students entering the 9th grade. All students should be encouraged to participate in and be provided with support and accommodations in the full range of college and career coursework before enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway.



9. What if there is not enough room in our school's schedule for a student to complete college and career ready coursework in conjunction with their CTE coursework, or their necessary intervention courses? Would a student still be required to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway as established by regulation?
 - School schedules and the availability of courses shall not be a driving factor in a student's decision to enroll in a readiness pathway. All students, by default, are expected to complete college and career ready coursework. Students in CTE pathways, or that require intervention courses, shall not be denied the opportunity to participate in the full range of college and career ready coursework due to the structure of a schools' schedule. RIDE will be providing LEAs with support rethinking their school schedules, at no cost to the LEA.
10. Do students enrolled in RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathways graduate with the same or different diploma than students who graduate having completed the full range of college and career ready coursework?
 - Rhode Island is committed to one diploma for all students. Students who enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway who graduate from an R.I. high school will receive the same R.I. high school diploma as their peers that do not enroll in a Readiness Pathway.

If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please reach out to ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV.