RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements:
Annual Parent/Guardian Update
Guidance for Implementation & Resources
Revised January 2024

RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements:
Annual Parent/Guardian Update Requirement Guidance and Resources

Introduction:

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is committed to ensuring all students have access to 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 education in Rhode Island K-12 schools. Specifically, this has presented the opportunity to develop innovative approaches to ensure all students graduate high school ready to create their own futures and to pursue their postsecondary goals.

Purpose of this document:

This document aims to provide clarity, guidance and resources for schools and districts implementing the new Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements, specifically as it relates to the requirement for schools to provide annual notification to parents/guardians of the progress their child/children are making towards **graduation**, and **on college and career benchmarks**.

Annual Parent/Guardian Update Requirement - Overview:

The adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements establishes the expectation that parents/guardians shall be provided with an annual update on the progress their child/children are making towards academic performance targets necessary for earning a diploma and graduating ready for college and career success.

Annual Parent/Guardian Update Requirement for Graduation – Summary Chart:

Beginning with students in the graduating class of 2028:

• Schools are expected to provide the parents and/or guardians of all students with an annual update on the progress their child or children are making towards academic performance targets necessary for the following:
   o Earning a Rhode Island High School Diploma;
   o Graduating eligible to apply for general admission at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College; and
   o Completing a RIDE-Approved Career and Technical Education Program.

• **Note**: Schools are encouraged to utilize existing effective parental notification structures when applicable to meet this requirement efficiently.

What should be included in an annual parent/guardian update?

Schools are expected to provide the parents and/or guardians of all students with an annual update (in the preferred language of each student's parent/guardian) on the progress their child or children are making towards academic performance targets necessary for the following:

1. Earning a Rhode Island High School Diploma;

2. Graduating eligible to apply for general admission at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College; and
3. Completing a RIDE-Approved Career and Technical Education Program.

RIDE recommends that the following components are included in the annual update provided by schools:

Update Goal	Recommended Update Components	
Parents/guardians shall receive annual update on the progress their child/children are making toward academic performance targets necessary for **earning a Rhode Island High School diploma.**	This includes information on whether a student is **on track** to graduate having*:	Earned the following credits: 4 credits in Math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II 4 credits in English Language Arts 3 credits in Science, including at least two Lab Science credits 3 credits in History/Social Studies 2 credits of World Language, consecutively, in the same language 1 Additional College Preparatory Unit 3 credits in The Arts, Computer Science, and Physical Education and Health
		Met proficiency in: - Civics - Computer Science - Financial Literacy - The Arts
		Met the required physical education and health expectations established in state law and regulation.
		Completed a resume.
		Received information on and support for transitioning to college, career, apprenticeship, and the military.
		Met other locally established graduation requirements.
	If a student is **not on track** to complete one of the above performance targets necessary for graduating college and career ready, the update must include:	Information on what graduation requirements, (using the list above*) the student **is on track** and **is not on track** to graduate having met.
		Information on the supports and interventions provided to the student in that content area thus far.
		Information on the importance of achieving college and career benchmarks to graduate with open doors.

		Options for the parent/guardian and their student to explore to get on track (e.g., ACN credit offerings, credit recovery, proficiency assessments).
		Information on a student's progress toward meeting the requirements set forth in a student's RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in situations where a student, through the informed consent of their parent/guardian, enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one of the above specified credit or proficiency requirements.
Parents/guardians shall receive annual update on the progress their child/children are making toward academic performance targets necessary to **graduate eligible to apply to the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.**	This includes information on whether a student is on track to graduate having completed**:	3 credits in math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II 4 credits in English Language Arts 2 credits in science, including at least two lab science credits 2 credits in history/social studies 2 credits of world language, consecutively, in the same language 5 additional college preparatory credits
		FAFSA application or Rhode Island Alternative Application for State Aid
	If a student is not on track to complete one of the above performance targets necessary for graduating eligible to apply for admission at URI and RIC:	Information on what components of college admissions, (using the list above**) the student **is on track** and **is not on track** to graduate having met.
		Information on the supports and interventions provided to the student in that content area thus far.
		Information on the importance of achieving college and career benchmarks to graduate with open doors.
		Options for the parent/guardian and their student to explore to get on track (e.g., ACN credit offerings, credit recovery, proficiency assessments).
		Information on a student's progress toward meeting the requirements set forth in a students' RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in situations where a student, through the informed consent of their parent/guardian, enrolls in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway

		in place of one of the above specified credit or proficiency requirements.
Parents/guardians shall receive annual update on the progress their child/children are making toward academic performance targets necessary to **complete a RIDE-Approved Career and Technical Education Program of Study.**	This includes information on whether a student is on track to graduate having completed:	• A series of at least three interrelated courses aligned to RIDE CTE program standards • At least one work-based learning experience aligned to the CTE Board of Trustee's WBL Guidance and criteria • Earning the industry recognized credential(s) of value specific to the students' CTE program of study.
	If a student is not on track to complete one of the above performance targets necessary for completing a RIDE-Approved CTE program:	• Information on the supports and interventions provided to the student thus far.
		• Information on the importance of achieving college and career benchmarks to graduate with open doors.
		• Options for the parent/guardian and their student to explore to get on track (e.g., credit recovery).

FAQs

1. **Why are schools required to provide annual updates to parents/guardians?**
   Parents and guardians play a crucial role in the education of a child, and while there exist pockets of excellence throughout the state in terms of keeping parents informed, this is an area we must focus on improving across the board. According to the XQ+RI Statewide Educational Opportunity Audit (2020): 2 out of 3 parents said they do not receive regular updates on the progress their kids are making toward college/career goals. Also, 1 out of 2 parents said they are not informed when their kids struggle in their classes.

   Our families deserve to receive regular updates on the progress their students are making towards the academic and technical performance targets necessary to earn a diploma, and to graduate ready for success in both college and career. This is why every high school in Rhode Island is now required to provide every student's parent/guardian an annual update on these benchmarks.

2. **Are report cards, or progress reports the same thing as an annual parent notification?**
   It is possible, but not necessarily. As mentioned above, already 2 out of 3 parents do not receive regular updates on the progress their students are making toward college/career goals. While schools are encouraged to leverage existing effective communication structures, the information included, and the delivery mechanism for informing parents may need to be

enhanced or improved in many schools and districts.

3. **How can schools ensure that they effectively communicate this update to parents/guardians who speak a language other than English?**
Updates must be provided in the preferred language of each student's parent/guardian. Schools are encouraged to leverage existing, effective communication structures with families so this may present an opportunity to bridge with the required MLL parent information sharing that is required to happen annually.

Additionally, included in RIDE's 5-Year Action Plan is the intent commitment that RIDE will launch a multilingual communications campaign to make families aware of this new expectation and the rights they have to be informed about their child's progress toward college and career ready outcomes. RIDE will also partner with parent and community groups to develop best practice models and additional guidance for schools on providing these annual updates to parents including a specific focus on effectively communicating with and supporting families of multilingual learners.

4. **Can the Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) platform that our school uses be leveraged to provide parents/guardians with annual updates? (Ex: Naviance, Xello, etc.)**
Yes, this is allowable through a parent portal or other mechanism within the ILP platform so long as it is inclusive of the required details about a student's progress toward graduation and college and career benchmarks.

If you have additional questions, or need additional information or resources, please contact ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV.