

**RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements:**  
**Middle School Strategies**  
**Frequently Asked Questions & Resources**  
*Revised January 2024*

## **RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements**

### **Middle School - Frequently Asked Questions 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 beginning with the graduating class of 2028. RIDE's adoption of Readiness-Based Graduation requirements presents an opportunity for reimagining high school education in Rhode Island. Specifically, this has presented the opportunity enhance the meaning of the R.I. high school diploma, create a space to develop innovative approaches education in middle and high schools, and to ensure all students graduate high school ready to create their own futures and to pursue their postsecondary goals.

Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements establish the default expectation that all students will graduate having completed college and career ready coursework. It is not only the responsibility of our high schools to support students in meeting these requirements, but rather, it is the responsibility of our whole K-12 system. We now have an updated goal in mind for the credits and proficiencies our students must graduate high school having completed and our middle schools will play an essential role in preparing students to succeed.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What are the credits students are, by default, required to graduate high school having completed?**

- 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.

*See question #5 below for the comparison between RIDE's Readiness-Based Graduation Requirement credit requirements and the general admissions requirements at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.*

**2. What high school credit requirements can students complete in Middle School?**

- **Math**
  - All students, by default, must complete 4 math credits during their high school experience including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (AGA)

- Students may complete one or more of the Algebra I, II and/or Geometry credits in middle school, and the design and rigor of the course(s) must be based on the Rhode Island Core Standards for High School Mathematics.
- If one or more of the AGA credits is earned in middle school, the student is still required to complete 4 years of mathematics in high school in order to obtain the necessary number of college preparatory credits required for admission at the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC) and a majority of the regional colleges and universities.
- If a student earns one or more of the AGA credits in middle school this should be reflected on a student's high school transcript.
- Students in and on track to complete RIDE-Approved CTE programs, and Dual Enrollment programs, may receive additional schedule flexibility to complete only 3 math credits during their high school experience, inclusive of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. If a student in a RIDE-Approved CTE program completed Algebra I and/or Geometry in Middle School, they will still be required to complete 3 credits of math during their high school experience.
  - For example: Imagine a rising senior enrolled in and on track to complete a construction CTE program and throughout their freshman-junior year completed Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. This student has plans to enter the construction field immediately after high school. The student may graduate having only earned these 3 credits of math in order for them to dive deeper into their CTE program of study, including work-based learning experiences in their senior year.

- **World Language**

- All students, by default, must complete 2 credits of world language (sequential levels in the same language) in order to graduate from high school.
- Students may complete one world language credit in middle school. Completion of this credit must be reflected on a student's high school transcript.

→ *Helpful Links*

- [Here is RIDE's Reimagining High School Webpage](#) where both the Math and World Language Graduation Requirement guidance documents are located.
- [Here](#) is RIDE's Math Curriculum Framework.
- [Here](#) are the Rhode Island Core Standards for Math.
- [Here](#) are the World Language standards endorsed by the R.I. Council on Elementary and Secondary Education in 2019.

### 3. **What are the proficiency requirements that students are, by default, required to graduate high school having completed?**

Our students will graduate proficient in the following:

- **Civics** – We will prepare our students to be responsible and thoughtful citizens of Rhode Island, the country, and the world—individuals who can actively participate and thrive in society.

- **Financial Literacy** – We will prepare our young people to make informed and responsible decisions about their financial futures. For example, many of our students are graduating high school while being offered six-figure loans to pursue their college education. We need to give them the skills to make an informed decision.
  - **Computer Science** – We will prepare our students to prosper and thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy in which computer science is omnipresent.
  - **The Arts** – We will encourage understanding, self-expression and creative problem-solving and will prepare our students to graduate confident to create, present, respond to, and connect through artistic expression.
- [Here is RIDE's Reimagining High School Webpage](#) where the financial literacy graduation requirement guidance document is located, and where future guidance documents will be posted.

#### 4. What proficiency requirements can students complete in middle school?

- **Computer Science**  
Students may demonstrate proficiency in computer science in middle school. The 0.5 credit completed in middle school must be reflected on the student's high school transcript.
- **Civics**  
Students may demonstrate proficiency in civics in middle school. Schools must keep track of student's completion of civics proficiency throughout their high school experience. This does not need to take place in the form of a standalone class. Students may achieve civics proficiency via standalone class, assessment, project, or embedded curriculum in an existing credit offering.
  - [Here](#) are the high school civics standards endorsed by the Council for Elementary and Secondary Education in February 2023.
  - [Here](#) is RIDE's Social Studies Framework.
- **Financial Literacy**  
Students may demonstrate proficiency in financial literacy in middle school. Schools must keep track of a student's completion of financial literacy proficiency throughout their high school experience. This does not need to take place in the form of a standalone class. Students may achieve financial literacy proficiency via standalone class, assessment, project or embedded curriculum in an existing credit offering.  
[Linked here is RIDE's Financial Literacy webpage.](#) This webpage includes:
  - Updated 2023: Financial Literacy Proficiency Graduation Guidance Requirement Guidance
  - Rhode Island Financial Literacy Standards
  - Professional Learning information
  - Rhode Island school-based contacts
  - Financial Literacy resource list


#### 5. How can students be supported in middle school to enter high school ready for success?

- Middle schools play a crucial role in preparing students to graduate high school ready to create their own future. This is *especially* true in the subject areas of Math and ELA. Middle schools must support students in mastering the middle school level standards for Math and ELA, utilizing high-quality curriculum, to ensure students enter high school ready for high school-level coursework.

*If you have additional questions, or need for additional information or resources, please contact [ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV](mailto:ReimaginingHS@RIDE.RI.GOV)*

**Please see the chart on the next page to see how RIDE’s Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements compare to the general admissions requirements at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.**

## RI High School to College Pipeline: Requirements for High School Graduation URI/RIC Admissions Requirements

		R.I. Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements	RIC Undergraduate Freshman Applicants	URI First-Year Student Admission Requirements	URI Engineering applicants	URI - Other (Recommended for applicants to Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Pharmacy)
English	★	4	4	4	4	4
Math	★	4 Including Algebra I and II, and Geometry	3 Including Algebra I and II, and Geometry	3 Including Algebra I and II, and Geometry	4 Including pre-calculus or calculus	4 Including Pre-Calculus or Trigonometry
Physical/Natural Sciences	★	3 Including 2 lab sciences	2 lab science	2 >1 lab science	3 physical sciences with labs, Including 1 unit of physics, 2 other physical sciences and chemistry	2 >1 lab science
History/Social Sciences	★	3	2	2	2	2
World Languages		2 in same world language	2 in same world language	2 in same world language	2 in same world language	2 in same world language
Additional College Prep		1 Additional college preparatory unit	5 Additional college preparatory units	5 Additional college preparatory units	5 Additional college preparatory units	5 Additional college preparatory units
Arts		3				
Computer Science		Shall include the arts, computer science and physical education and health.***	Not required for college admissions	Not required for college admissions	Not required for college admissions	Not required for college admissions
Physical Education and Health						
Minimum Total		20	18	18	20	19
Additional		The 20 credits must be aligned with high school content standards and include the demonstration of proficiency in all core content areas as established by state statute and/or regulation.	Additional coursework In any of the above-referenced subjects, or other college preparatory elective courses offered by your high school.	Additional college preparatory units Include: English, world language, mathematics, social science, or laboratory science	Additional college preparatory units Include: English, world language, mathematics, social science, or laboratory science	

\*CCRI is not represented on this chart because it is an open enrollment school and there are no academic requirements for general admission.

\*\*English, Math, Physical/Natural Sciences and History/Social Studies have been marked with a green star to note that additional college prep units are included in these subject requirements.

\*\*\*Students are required to earn credit in the arts, computer science and physical education and health.