

NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT NPHS DIPLOMA SYSTEM POLICY	Approved: October 25, 2023

NPHS requires a composite measure of each student’s overall proficiency in six core academic areas: English, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. These six core content areas are aligned to state adopted standards and locally adopted national standards in those content areas for which there are no state standards. This composite measure shall be derived from a conjunctive review of two sources of evidence: (1) successful course completion; and (2) successful completion of one performance-based diploma assessment. In order to be eligible for a diploma, students must meet state and local requirements in both areas. A North Providence High School diploma recognizes students who have met Rhode Island and North Providence graduation requirements. These graduation requirements are designed to prepare students to become proficient, life-long learners in order to successfully pursue post-secondary academic and career goals. Only students who demonstrate fulfillment of these graduation requirements shall participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a diploma.

COURSE/CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

A minimum amount of 20 course/credits is required for graduation

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED TO GRADUATE</u>
English	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Physical Education (4 years)	4
Health (4 Quarters)	4
Electives	5 minimum

All students must attempt a minimum of seven (7) credits each year. Not all courses receive a full credit. Electives may include courses in unified arts, business/technology, and world languages. Students participating in specialized pathways may progress in their courses through an accelerated schedule to demonstrate proficiency. See the NPHS Course of Study Catalog for further information at <http://npsd.k12.ri.us/nphs>.

PERFORMANCE-BASED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Senior Project. All seniors are required to complete a senior project. The nationally certified senior project is aligned to the school's 21st Century Graduation Expectations and Core Values, as well as appropriate state/national standards, and also serves as an important vehicle to assess students' college and career readiness. Seniors must choose a field of interest, complete at least twelve (12) hours of independent work with a community mentor in the field, maintain a log and reflective journal, write a college research paper about the topic, assemble a portfolio of the experience, and deliver a culminating oral presentation to community judges.

DIPLOMA COMMENDATIONS & CERTIFICATES

NPHS will recognize students who achieve above the minimum achievement level through state assessments, course work, and a performance-based assessment.

Council Designations

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:

1. 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 his/her performance on a state-approved assessment.
2. 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.
3. 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.

TRANSFERS & APPEALS

In order to receive a North Providence High School Diploma, students who transfer from another school will have their transcripts reviewed to determine if any modifications in course, credit, or PBGR requirements are warranted. Graduation decisions shall be the responsibility of the principal in consultation with the professional staff. Parents/guardians will be notified of potential graduate/non-graduate status during the fourth quarter deficiency period. Non-graduate status may be the result of any of the graduation requirements not being met. Parents/guardians may appeal the graduate/non-graduate status by submitting a written request for a hearing with the principal and appropriate staff. Results of the hearing may then be appealed through a written request for another hearing with the Superintendent of Schools. The appeals process shall consider all valid sources of evidence that demonstrate and document student proficiency at a level commensurate with the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.

Approved: 7/26/2017

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Revised/Approved: 10/25/2023