

Woonsocket Education Department Policy 3-3.6
Recommended Revision

Current Policy

P3-3.6 High School Grades 9-12. The following shall be required for all programs in the high school:

English, four years; United States history or equivalent, two years; physical education, one year of attendance.

Courses related to the physical education program - health, first aid, one year each (**one period per week**).

Revised policy recommendation

P3-3.6 High School Grades 9-12.

Graduation

Students must fulfill all of the academic requirements for graduation as outlined in the Student Handbook in order to graduate from Woonsocket High School. Any student who does not fulfill those graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the graduation exercises. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

In addition, any student who is under disciplinary suspension during a period of time, which includes Graduation Day, will not be permitted to participate in the graduation exercises, Commencement Ball or any other senior week activity.

Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs)

A student must complete the four components of the Rhode Island Department of Education's Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements to be eligible to receive a high school diploma from the Woonsocket Education Department. The four components are as follows:

Completion of 26 Carnegie Units in designated course work (Six Core Areas)

Satisfaction of course requirements for end of course assessments

Participation in the Rhode Island Department of Education's Assessment Program (**NECAP**)

Completion of a Graduation Portfolio

The Woonsocket Education Department, in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Education's High School Regulations, will implement the New High School Diploma System commencing with the Graduating Class of 2008. High school students will be required to pass and earn a minimum of 26 credits* (WHS requirement) in specific content areas, as one measure to earn a high school diploma from the Woonsocket Public Schools.

The number of subjects passed and credits earned as well as completion of the above-noted Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements will determine a student's progress toward graduation. When it has been determined that students have successfully completed the work prescribed for their grade level, they shall be promoted to the next grade.

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Expanded Learning Opportunities

It is the policy of the School Committee to allow **expanded** learning opportunities as a means of meeting the diverse instructional needs of students with different talents, interest, and development. **The School Committee's** intent is to improve student achievement in situations where regular classrooms are not practical or effective.

All such opportunities must be aligned with the Woonsocket Education Department's Mission statement, goals, objectives and learning expectations as well as state standards and regulations.

Such opportunities shall provide credit or supplement regular academic courses. **Carnegie credits** can be granted for **expanded** learning activities, including, but not limited to, independent study, **community college**, private instruction, team sports, performing groups, internships, community service, and work study. Where credit is not granted, such experiences shall be used to fulfill prerequisite requirements for advanced courses. The granting of **Carnegie credits** shall be based on a student's demonstration of course competencies, as approved by certified personnel.

The **School Committee** directs the Superintendent to establish regulations and procedures for implementing this policy that will include:

- Application, approval, appeals process
- Administrative supervision and oversight of individual student's programs by certified personnel
- Requirements that each **expanded** learning program be approved prior to its implementation
- Requirements that the experience will provide an opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and skill development comparable to, **or an extension of** knowledge and skill development in courses offered at the high school
- Student participation in selecting, organizing, and carrying out **expanded** learning activities
- ~~• Reasonable limits on the number of approved **expanded** learning opportunities that can be administered each school year—school wide and per student~~
- Assurance of equal access for all students
- Compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to minors
- Approved learning opportunities that are consistent with all policies of this **School Committee**

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the **School Committee**, under ordinary circumstances, students or their parents/guardians shall be responsible for all related expenses including tuition and textbooks.