



Cranston Public Schools

Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
2016-2017**

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The communities within the Cranston High Schools seek to instill high expectations for all students in their academic, civic, and social endeavors and to provide them with opportunities to succeed in both higher education and the global marketplace. We remain committed to establishing clear, rigorous, and demanding standards and expectations that encompass all the necessary skills, which all students must demonstrate in order to succeed as responsible citizens of the 21st Century. Once established, these standards and expectations define the levels of achievement that we have for all of our students, and assist us in identifying effective learning strategies for delivering instruction and assessing students' performance.

In order to accomplish our mission, the school communities have identified learning expectations for all students. These academic, civic, and social expectations specify what students must know and be able to do upon graduation. Our educational program is designed to engage students in active, collaborative learning that emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills, literacy (reading and mathematics), and technology skills as applied to real world concepts and practices. Further, we believe that an educational program that is academically challenging and student-centered will provide our young adults with a strong foundation for future successes.

The following pages outline the requirements for graduation from the High Schools in Cranston. Please take time to review this document carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor. The related school documents are on the Cranston School Department website.

We want all of our students to have valuable learning experiences in our high schools, ensuring that every student will be a successful, productive member of society.

Respectfully,

Mr. Thomas Barbieri, Principal, Cranston High School West

Mr. Dennis Curran, Director, NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy

Mr. Sean Kelly, Principal, Cranston High School East

The Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) Committee, in collaboration with administrators, program supervisors, department heads, and teachers developed this graduation handbook.

It is with sincere appreciation that we thank all who thoughtfully contributed to this important document.

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The Mission of Cranston Public Schools:

In partnership with families and community, Cranston Public Schools will empower all students to achieve academic and personal excellence, exhibit persistent effort and live as resourceful, inquiring, and contributing global citizens.

Core Values and Beliefs:

All students can learn in a school community that observes the Cranston traditions, respects all, embraces diversity, and strives for educational excellence.

In Cranston Public Schools we believe and value:

- Success for all
- Family and community engagement
- Rigorous and relevant curriculum
- School and community pride
- Respect and character
- Collaborative leadership
- Safe and healthy environment
- College and career readiness

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The Cranston High Secondary School graduate exhibits across all content areas, proficiency in:

Communication Skills

All students will evidence a comprehension of complex literary and informational texts, appropriate academic vocabulary, and accurate grammar, through the techniques of:

- ❖ Argument Writing
- ❖ Narrative Writing
- ❖ Informational Writing
- ❖ Speaking and Listening
- ❖ Performance/Visual Arts

Problem Solving and Critical Thinking Skills

All students will evidence the guiding principles of focus and coherence of these skills through the techniques of:

- ❖ Functions and Algebra
- ❖ Geometry
- ❖ Scientific Inquiry
- ❖ Technology/Engineering Design

Cranston High Schools' Diploma System

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has developed requirements to ensure that all students across the state successfully complete a rigorous high school program that renders them college and career ready. A Cranston High School diploma is the official recognition that a student has met RI's and Cranston's graduation requirements and has demonstrated the necessary proficiencies to graduate. Proficiencies in academic areas will be based on adopted state and national standards, in conjunction with the Applied Learning Standards, as set by the Rhode Island Board of Education. Proficient performances for graduation are necessary in each of the six core academic areas: English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, and the arts. Students will be assessed on the completion of a Cranston Graduation Portfolio, common course assessments, and community service requirements. These requirements for a Cranston High School Diploma are consistent with Rhode Island Board Of Education regulations.

Requirements for a Cranston High School Diploma:

1. Successful completion of the required coursework
2. Successful completion of Comprehensive Course Assessments
3. Successful completion of a Graduation Portfolio & Presentation
4. Successful completion of community service requirements
5. Participation in Rhode Island State Assessment (Refer to CPS Policy 5123)
 - a. A small number of students with significant cognitive disabilities cannot participate in the general education assessments even with accommodations.
 - b. Students who take alternate assessments based on alternate academic

achievement standards are not precluded from attempting to complete the requirements for a traditional high school diploma.

Description of Requirements

Coursework /Credit Requirements:

A *minimum* of 24 credits are required to graduate.

Subject	Credits Needed
English	4.0
Mathematics (One credit may be from Applied Math courses)	4.0
Science	3.0
Social Studies (One credit in U.S. History is required)	3.0
Physical Education (.25 per year for 4 years)	1.0
Health (.25 per year for 4 years)	1.0
Fine Arts	0.5
Computer Technology	0.5
Financial Literacy *class of 2018	0.5
Other electives	6.5
Total:	24.0

Common Course Assessments:

These assessments measure a student's proficiency against our academic expectations rubrics and provide a measure of course content knowledge. These are comprised of both content and performance-based assessments, and are aligned to our district comprehensive assessment policy.

Graduation Portfolio & Presentation

The graduation portfolio is a collection of student work or artifacts that demonstrates each student's readiness to graduate and counts toward the accrual of coursework and course credits toward graduation. All students are provided common assessments in every course that can be used in their portfolios. The graduation portfolio must show proficiency in CPS academic expectations. Students must display twenty artifacts (twelve communications skills / eight problem solving skills - at least one from each academic expectation area).

In preparation for completing the graduation portfolio, students must progressively accumulate artifacts beginning in grade nine. All students are provided support and organizational tools to prepare for a successful presentation. Students and families will be informed of student progress each marking period.

The portfolio presentation takes place in the spring of grade twelve. Students present their portfolios to a panel. During the presentation, students must address why the artifacts reflect their best work, how the body of work is connected to their personal goals, and their readiness to graduate. Students must present specific artifacts that reflect how their learning has progressed over time to become proficient.

The Cranston Public School Department is dedicated to supporting the success of every student. Students are provided opportunities to resubmit work required for completing their portfolios. However, it is each student's responsibility to prioritize and put forth every effort to successfully complete what is expected of him or her in order to graduate.

Community Service

As a civic expectation, all students must complete 20 hours of community service before graduating. Students will share their community service experience during the graduation portfolio presentation.

ILP (Individual Learning Plan)

Each student will create and maintain an ILP that is aligned to academic, career, personal, civic and social goals.

Only students who demonstrate fulfillment of ALL graduation requirements and proficiencies shall participate in the graduation ceremonies and receive a diploma.

