

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comprehensive Assessment System

I. Policy Statement

Educators, parents and other stakeholders in public education all have the obligation and duty to ensure that our students meet or exceed the performance expectations and proficiency standards as defined by state standards, and as measured through state and local assessments. Upon graduation, our students must demonstrate college and career readiness. They must be adequately prepared to compete and excel in secondary and higher education settings, as well as training that leads to meaningful career opportunities requiring mastery of content learning and its application in real world settings.

In order to monitor and support the achievement of college and career readiness in our students, we will provide a Comprehensive Assessment System that is based upon applicable state and national standards, local classroom assessments, and standardized measures including state assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. A Comprehensive Assessment System is a coordinated plan for monitoring the academic achievement of students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The goal of the Comprehensive Assessment System is to increase student learning by producing actionable data, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and ensure that all students are making progress toward achieving learning goals. Research has shown that data-informed decision-making on the part of educators leads to greater student achievement. In addition, students benefit when they understand the criteria for success and receive regular, descriptive feedback on their progress toward their goals.

Curricula, instruction, and assessment for all students will be aligned to state and national standards, along with accompanying identified benchmarks which will serve as indicators of student proficiency, including those deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). To provide students, teachers, and parents with appropriate data to monitor student success, all students are required to participate in the designated local and state assessments appropriate to their grade level. This will include appropriate accommodations as required within an IEP and 504, and in accordance with other federal regulations.

II. Legal Authority

Title 1 of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires that each school district receiving federal funding is required to use the state academic assessments to determine whether the school is making adequate yearly progress.¹ School districts are required to attain a minimum student participation rate of 95 percent in the statewide assessment program.

The Rhode Island General Assembly empowers and requires the Rhode Island Board of Education² and RIDE to implement a state assessment program which includes performance standards and assessments of student performance³. The Rhode Island General Assembly mandates that school committees, including the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee, develop educational policies to meet the needs of the community, to provide for and assure the implementation of federal and state laws and regulations, and to establish policies governing curriculum and courses of instruction.⁴

The Rhode Island General Assembly requires superintendents of schools to implement policies established by school committees and to comply with provisions of federal and state laws.

III. District's Adoption of the Comprehensive Assessment System

The Bristol Warren Regional School Committee hereby adopts the Comprehensive Assessment System, including but not limited to the state assessments. Students are hereby required to participate in all such required or designated assessments.

IV. District Protocol

The Superintendent shall forthwith establish a districtwide protocol facilitating the terms of this policy. Consistent with applicable state law, rule, and guidance from RIDE, the Superintendent shall provide for alignment of appropriate curricula to the state standards.

V. Evaluation and Review

This policy shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and shall be automatically amended to conform to amendments and changes in applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. If any such automatic amendment shall occur, it shall be brought to the attention of the School Committee, as soon as possible, at a public meeting.

VI. Current State Assessment Program (subject to amendment from time to time):

The Rhode Island General Assembly has determined that state assessments be based upon the Common Core standards.

RIDE has identified the following assessments for the statewide assessment program:

- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment administered to students in grades 3-10, enrolled in English Language Arts (ELA), as well as students in grades 3-8, enrolled in Mathematics, Algebra 1 and Geometry
- New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science, administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 11
- National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessments ~~for~~ administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities, in grades 3-8 and 11, in both ELA and Mathematics
- Rhode Island Alternate Assessment (RIAA) for Science administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities, in grades 4, 8 & 11

VI. Section Footnotes

¹ SEC. 1116. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

(a) LOCAL REVIEW-

(1) IN GENERAL- Each local educational agency receiving funds under this part shall —

(A) use the State academic assessments and other indicators described in the State plan to review annually the progress of each school served under this part to determine whether the school is making adequate yearly progress as defined in section 1111(b)(2);

¹ **16-97-1.1. Purposes of the board of education.** --

The Rhode Island Board of Education shall be responsible for long-range planning and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the public educational systems of the state. The General Assembly finds and declares that the Board of Education shall have the following purposes:

(a) To develop and adopt educational, financial and operational goals for the education systems of the state that represent achievable benchmarks for a ten (10) year and twenty (20) year time frame and that can be implemented by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Commissioners for Elementary and Secondary Education and Postsecondary Education;

(b) To ensure that the education systems of the State are aligned with the projected opportunities in workforce development and economic development, and that the education systems are preparing students to participate in the future workforce of Rhode Island;

(c) To coordinate programs and courses of study and promote collaboration between and among pre-kindergarten through higher education institutions and agencies, including, but not limited to:

(1) improving career and college readiness;

(2) reducing the need for remedial instruction;

(3) implementing and coordinating common core and other system wide standards;

(4) ensuring a quality system for adult education and certification programs in secondary school and college

(d) To present strategic budget and finance recommendations to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and Council on Postsecondary Education that are aligned with the long-range goals adopted by the board.

¹ **16-97-8. Assessment of student performance.** --

(a) The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shall implement the State Assessment Program. The program shall include performance standards and an annual report that disaggregates performance by race, poverty, native language and gender.

(b) Prior to the graduating class of 2017, no state assessment conducted pursuant to this chapter, and no other standardized testing program or assessment, shall be used to determine a student's eligibility to graduate from high school. Any such assessments implemented prior to the graduating class of 2017, shall be used to promote school improvement and to target remediation programs to individual students and groups of students.

¹ See R.I. Gen Laws 16-2-9 §§ (a) (2), (3) & (20)

Adopted: July 13, 2015