Pathway Endorsements: Opportunities to Deepen and Recognize Learning
Agenda

• Where do Council Designations and Pathway Endorsements fit into RI’s diploma system?
• Pathway Endorsements: Options and Student Criteria
• Considerations for Pathway Design
• Opportunities to Share
• Wrap-Up
Rhode Island Believes...

A Rhode Island graduate is one who is well prepared for postsecondary education, work, and life. He or she can think critically and collaboratively and can act as a creative, self-motivated, culturally competent learner and citizen.

(2015-2020 Strategic Plan)
# Vision for Secondary Schools

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Graduation by Proficiency</th>
<th>Personalization</th>
<th>Multiple Pathways</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every student learns both broadly and deeply.</td>
<td>Every student is supported in their own learning.</td>
<td>Every student is engaged and exercises choice.</td>
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Council Designations

Council Designations serve as a means to:

✓ Personalize the diploma
✓ Externally validate student achievement
✓ Allow for public recognition of specific skills
✓ Incentivize students to achievement beyond diploma requirements
✓ Encourage flexible and personalized high school learning experiences.
Council Designations: Class of 2021 and beyond

Commissioner’s Seal
- Certifies proficiency in mathematics and ELA
- Validated through external assessment(s)

Seal of Biliteracy
- Certifies proficiency in English and one or more other world languages

Pathway Endorsements
- Certifies deep learning in chosen area of interest
- Combines academic study, career and interest engagement and application of skill through performance-based diploma assessment
Pathway Endorsement Areas: Program Examples

**Arts Endorsement**
- Animation
- AV Technology
- Dance
- Graphic Design
- Music History
- Theater
- Visual Arts

**Business & Industry Endorsement**
- Automotive & Logistics
- Communications
- Construction
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Marine Trades

**Humanities & World Language Endorsement**
- History/Culture
- Journalism
- Literature
- Psychology
- Sociology
- World Languages

**Public Service Endorsement**
- Criminal Justice
- Defense
- Government
- Law
- Public Health

**STEM Endorsement**
- Bioscience
- Biomedical
- Biotechnology
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Pre-Engineering
- Solar Technology
- Statistics

**Teaching Endorsement**
- Early Childhood
- Education
- Human Development
- Youth Development
Pathway Endorsement: Student Criteria

Minimum requirements, agnostic of program of study:

(1) Academic study, inclusive of at least three courses, with one advanced or experiential,

(2) Career and interest engagement (work-based learning experiences), and

(3) Demonstration through the performance-based diploma assessment.
Academic Study

Students must successfully complete 3 independent, connected courses:
• Increased complexity, and complementary or cumulative content
• Deep learning with increased level of specialization that builds coherence of the topic through coursework
• One or more courses must be advanced or experiential
• Two of the three courses should be outside of the typical courses for a particular content area or area of study suggested for all students.
## Career or Interest Engagement: Work-Based Learning

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>A position for a student or trainee to work in an organization, sometimes without pay, to gain work experience, satisfy requirements for a credential, and/or gain course credit.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Highly formal job training experience that involves studying with a master of the trade on the job.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Learning Project</td>
<td>A program or project which combines community service with an outside organization with a structured opportunity for reflection about that service, emphasizing the connections between service experiences and academic learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-based Enterprise</td>
<td>Students produce and sell goods or services in the school and learn about business skills and entrepreneurship. This may be part of an entrepreneurship course, and a business professional may serve as a mentor and advisor for the enterprise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry Project</td>
<td>Individual, group, or class-wide projects in which students address a real-world, industry-focused question or problem with the guidance of industry professionals.</td>
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Demonstration through Diploma Assessment

Students must successfully complete a Performance Based Diploma Assessment that:

• Applies and demonstrates knowledge and skills gained through their pathway program coursework and career/interest engagement experience,

• Demonstrates reflection on the pathway experience.

• Ties the diploma assessment requirement to the Pathway Endorsement area of study.
Designing Pathways

• Schools and district design options for (1) cohort pathways and (2) individual pathways

• Schools and districts may create a few established pathways, often cohort model, and a process to approve individual pathways

• Pathway Endorsements must be available to current 9th graders, graduating class of 2021
Turn and Talk

Think of a subject, topic or career path that you are passionate about. How would you earn your Pathways Endorsement?

- Academic Study
  - Course 1
  - Course 2
  - Course 3

- Career or Interest Engagement
- WBL Experience

- Performance Based Diploma Assessment
  - Portfolio, Capstone, Sr Project/ Exhibition
Discussion

(1) What pathway programming currently exists in your school or district?

(2) What pathways, courses or programs do you currently have that may only need some adjustments to be able to offer cohort pathway programming that lead to Pathway Endorsements for students? In what discipline areas?

(3) What additional information or supports would be like or need from the state as you implement Pathway Endorsement structures in your school or district? What do you need to be successful?
Thank You!

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www.ride.ri.gov/DiplomaSystem