High School Proficiency Based Graduation
(2009 revision to Policy IKF)

The Rhode Island Department of Education has developed a proficiency-based diploma system that affects all public high school students beginning with the Class of 2008. Consistent with Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education (BoR) Regulations, the requirements for a Lincoln High School (LHS) Diploma will be set by the School Committee and published annually in the LHS Program of Studies. This state system sets the minimum graduation requirements. The Lincoln School Committee, by policy, maintains the prerogative to set more rigorous standards for graduation.

A Lincoln High School diploma is the official recognition that a student has met the state and Lincoln graduation requirements and has demonstrated the necessary proficiency to graduate. Only students who demonstrate fulfillment of these graduation requirements and proficiencies shall participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a diploma.

I. Requirements
The requirements for a Lincoln High School Diploma shall include:

1. Completion of the minimum required coursework credits, both in total and for specific subjects. Course requirements for graduation shall be as set by the School Committee and published in the LHS Program of Studies.

2. Demonstration of proficiency in six core content areas (English, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and technology).

3. Successful completion of a Graduation Exhibition, as specified in the LHS Program of Studies.

4. Successful completion of a Graduation Portfolio, as specified in the LHS Program of Studies.

5. Participation in and sufficient completion (as determined by the Superintendent of Schools), of statewide assessments, known as the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), according to a timetable determined by the BoR. Students may choose to use these assessment results as a Portfolio entry.

5a. Beginning with the Class of 2012, students must demonstrate “partial proficiency” on the NECAP, in the specific areas designated by the BoR. Students not meeting partial proficiency will be required to demonstrate proficiency through a method determined by the PBGR Committee of LHS.
II. Access and Opportunity

Access to instruction designed to allow students to attain proficiency is central to the achievement of proficiency. To that end, all students in Lincoln shall have access and opportunity to learn in the curriculum designed to make them proficient as shall be required of them to graduate.

Proficiency graduation is based on mutual, shared accountability. The school district is accountable for an educational program designed to enable students to reach proficiency. Students are accountable for participation in and completion of their program.

III. Transfer Students and Appeals Process

The LHS Principal shall establish a Proficiency Based Graduation Review Team (Review Team) consisting of faculty and administrators to review the Graduation by Proficiency (GBP) requirements of all students entering grades 11 and 12 as transfer students to LHS and to address appeals of graduation requirements. A student’s compliance with an approved home study course of study or another school’s GBP or like standards may not be automatically accepted by the Lincoln School District. Parents are encouraged to submit student’s educational records to the Review Team as soon as possible to receive timely advice as to the status of a student’s progress towards District GBP standards.

A. Transfer Students

Students entering LHS requiring more than two years of work necessary prior to graduation (typically before the start of grade 11) will meet all requirements in order to receive a LHS diploma. For transfer students who enroll at LHS with two years or less of work necessary prior to graduation (typically at the start of grade 11 or later), the following review procedure and decisions will be made:

- For students transferring to LHS from another Rhode Island public high school, the Review Team will consider the completed GBP standards established by the previous school. The review panel will make specific recommendations to the LHS Principal (or principal’s designee). The recommendations will be reviewed by the Principal for his/her decision. The Principal will inform the student’s guidance counselor, and the guidance counselor will meet with the student and parent/guardian.
- For students transferring to LHS from a Rhode Island non-public school or Home School Instruction, or from an out-of-state public or private school or Home School Instruction, the Review Team will review the student’s transcripts and any other academic information from the prior school. The review team will make
specific recommendations to the LHS Principal (or principal’s designee) for his/her decision. The Principal will inform the student’s guidance counselor, and the guidance counselor will meet with the student and parent/guardian.

B. Appeals Process

Any student who believes that he or she has been improperly denied a diploma may utilize the school system’s appeal procedure through the administrative steps hereby outlined:

The Review Team is the first step if a student wishes to challenge a decision regarding graduation. A student (or his/her parent or legal guardian) may submit a request in writing to the Review Team as to why the student should be permitted to graduate. The Review Team shall inform the student/parent/guardian in writing of its decision regarding this appeal, along with an explanation for such decision, within ten days of receipt of this written request.

Students/parents/guardians who do not accept the Review Team’s decision may then appeal to the LHS Principal. Such request must be in writing and must include cause as to why the Review Team’s decision should be changed. The Principal shall inform the student, parent, or guardian in writing of his or her decision, along with an explanation for such decision, within ten days of the date of the written appeal.

Students/parents/guardians who do not accept the Principal’s decision may then appeal to the Superintendent. A written request to the Superintendent must include cause as to why the LHS Principal’s decision should be changed. The Superintendent shall inform the parent or guardian in writing of his/her decision, along with an explanation for such decision, within ten days of receiving this written appeal.

Students/parents/guardians who do not accept the Superintendent’s decision may then submit a written request to the Chairperson of the Lincoln School Committee. Such request must include cause as to why the Superintendent’s decision should be changed. The School Committee, on receipt of such letter, will schedule a hearing to review the request. It shall be the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to show cause for amending the Superintendent’s decision. The School Committee Chairperson shall respond in writing to the student/parent/guardian within 10 days of this hearing.

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