

Standards for Approval of Non-Public Schools in Rhode Island

UPDATES

15. Graduation Requirements

The minimum requirements for a student to graduate from an approved non-public secondary school shall be twenty academic courses or the equivalent that include demonstrations of proficiency in the six core content areas. The twenty courses must include the following: four courses of English Language Arts, four courses of mathematics (three mathematics courses and one math-related course), three courses of science, and three courses of history/social studies. The additional six required courses are presumed to include, but not limited to, world languages, the arts, physical education and health, and technology pursuant to applicable state law. [The Board of Regents Secondary Regulations - March 2011](#)

19. Fire Drills

Private schools must instruct and train the pupils by means of drills to leave school buildings and/or be locked down in an emergency in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic. Fifteen drills are required annually, including fire, lockdown, and evacuation drills. At least one drill shall be conducted each month, and at least one out of every four must be obstructed drills, i.e. at least 1 or more exits and stairways blocked. As part of the required 15 emergency drills, each school must conduct two evacuation drills and two lockdown drills. One lockdown drill shall occur in September and one in January. Neglect by a private school to comply is a violation punishable by a fine not exceeding \$200. [RIGL §16-21-4](#); [§16-21-5](#); [§23-28.12-15](#); [§23-28.12-36](#); [S2629](#).

Non-Public Schools with Residence Facilities

In residence facilities in private schools, there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be held between the months of September through December inclusive. The remaining two (2) drills shall be held between the months of January through June inclusive. At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used. For purposes of this section “residence facility” shall mean dormitory, fraternity, sorority, or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased by a college, university, post-secondary institution, public schools, or private school with accommodations for twenty (20) or more students. For purposes of this section “residence facility” shall mean dormitory, fraternity, sorority, or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased by a college, university, post-secondary institution, public schools, or private school with accommodations for twenty (20) or more students. Neglect by a private school to comply is a violation punishable by a fine not exceeding \$200. [RIGL §16-21-4](#); [§16-21-5](#); [§23-28.12-15](#); [§23-28.12-36](#); [S2629](#).