

Special Considerations for Parent Engagement in Secondary Schools

Secondary schools should be aware of the diverse needs and aspiration of newcomer families as they strive to help them understand the various pathways to graduation and the relative advantages of the options available to high school students (Kreider et al., 2007).

Newcomer parents may need help developing the knowledge and skills to advocate for their child's inclusion in college preparatory, career pathway, Advanced Placement, and concurrent enrollment courses. They may also need information on adolescent development, gang affiliation, identifying and responding to drug use, financial aid for college, college exploration, and filling out application forms for college and financial aid. High schools can include such topics in their newcomer parent-education programming.

In addition, schools can support parent and newcomers by developing individual graduation plans that are regularly reviewed with counselors to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

The Rhode Island Diploma System

Preparing all students for success in college, careers, and life

Rhode Island has implemented a statewide diploma system to ensure access for all middle and high school students to rigorous, high quality, personalized learning opportunities and pathways.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE STATUTE

RI law, effective on July 1, 2011, changed the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years of age. [The RI Compulsory Attendance Law, RIGL 16-19-1](#), responds to the number of students who, despite district/school efforts to engage them and provide them with a variety of learning opportunities and supports, are at great risk of dropping out of school. This statute allows a student, age 16 or older, who has an alternative learning plan to be waived from attending school. One of the requirements for making this available to students is that the school must communicate with the student and parent/family to develop an alternative plan that includes learning and/or training opportunities that provides the student an opportunity earn a high school diploma, its equivalent, or another credential.

- [Compulsory Attendance Statute excerpt - March 2012](#)
- [Alternative Learning Plan Process - April 2012](#) [PDF, 143 KB]
- [Alternative Learning Guidance - 2013](#) [DOCX, 43.1 KB]
- [Compulsory Attendance Implementation Guidance](#) - August 2013 [PDF, 502KB]
- [FAQ for Compulsory Attendance Statute - March 2012](#) [PDF, 83KB]