

**WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of Curriculum and Instruction**  
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September 30, 2009

To the Parents/Guardian of Seventh and Eighth Grade Students,

On June 17, 2009, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted revised New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in six content areas and revised high school graduation requirements. The adoption of the 2009 standards and graduation requirements were considered "a critical step in the ongoing process of ensuring each graduate from New Jersey public schools is college, career and citizenship ready in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The changes in the standards reflect the integration of technology, problem-based learning, inquiry-based approaches and the use of higher order thinking skills. The standards also seek to engage students in meaningful and relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and themes, while also promoting global perspectives and interdisciplinary connections. There is a three-phase curriculum implementation plan that will result with these standards, in all content areas, being implemented in K-12 classrooms by September 1, 2012.

If you would like to view the new standards, you can click on the "NJCCCS (Standards)" link on the Curriculum Office's webpage. This link will direct you to the 2009 Standards, as well as the archived 2004 and 1996 standards.

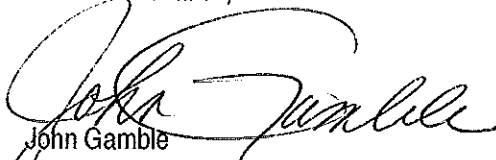
The high school graduation requirements are attached to this document. These are the minimum requirements approved by the state of New Jersey and must be incorporated into all high school's graduation requirements. This change in legislation impacts Westampton in that the code requires that districts are "planning and taking steps at all grade levels to prepare all students to meet new high school graduation requirements." In our school district, we have done the following to ensure that our students are being appropriately prepared for these requirements. These steps include:

- ✓ Mapping curriculum and vertical articulation, which resulted in a revised curricula that is aligned K-8 and prepares students for the courses offered at Rancocas Valley Regional High School.
- ✓ Increasing the Algebra course courses for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Westampton Middle School.
- ✓ Articulating with RVRHS and the 4 sending districts (Eastampton, Mt. Holly, Hainesport, and Lumberton) in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics, with plans for ongoing articulation in Science and Social Studies.
- ✓ Integrating more supportive technology into the core subject area instruction at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels.

We are confident that, with your support and our ongoing improvements to the instructional programs in the district, our students will be prepared for the ongoing changes and advances of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the building administrators or the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

Yours in education,

  
John Gamble  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

## NJ State Minimum\* Graduation Requirements by Content Area and Grade 9 Class

	<b>Course and credit requirements for all students entering grade 9 in:</b>					
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY</b>	20 credits	20 credits aligned to grade nine through 12 standards				
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	15 credits including algebra I or the content equivalent**	15 credits including algebra I and geometry or the content equivalent**		15 credits including algebra I and geometry or the content equivalent* and a third year of math that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers		
<b>SCIENCE</b>	15 credits including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent**	15 credits including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent** and one additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course which shall include chemistry, environmental science, or physics		15 credits including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent**; an additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course including chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and a third laboratory/inquiry-based science course		
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	15 credits including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 2	15 credits including satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 2; five credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics, geography and global content in all course offerings				
<b>FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC BUSINESS, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LITERACY</b>	No state requirement		2.5 credits			
<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	3 ¾ credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7 and 8					
<b>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</b>	5 credits					
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>	5 credits or student demonstration of proficiency					
<b>TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY</b>	Consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum					
<b>21ST CENTURY LIFE AND CAREERS, OR CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION</b>	5 credits					
<b>TOTAL CREDITS (State Minimum)</b>	110	120***				

\* School districts may establish course and/or credit requirements which exceed the State minimums.

\*\* "Content equivalent" means courses or activities that include the same or equivalent knowledge and skills as those found in traditionally titled courses which are required for high school graduation and which are aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. This content must be taught by certified teachers, may be integrated in one or more courses, may be titled differently, or may present material in an interdisciplinary or spiral format.

\*\*\* The 120 credit total is greater than the sum of the individual requirements above, to allow for student electives.