

FOSTER-GLOCESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOSTER-GLOCESTER, RHODE ISLAND

PONAGANSET COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS APPLICATION POLICY

Philosophy and Intent

The purpose of this policy is to support the mission of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District by providing each graduate the opportunity to be well prepared for post-secondary education, careers, and citizenship within a global knowledge-based digital society. This policy is intended to set forth the application process, application criteria, and appeals process for the Ponaganset College and Career Pathways Program.

College and Career Pathways Application Process

The Foster-Glocester School District is committed to providing a comprehensive educational system that develops the whole child (academic, career, and personal/social) through academics, personalized learning courses (electives), athletics, and other extra-curricular experiences. Ponaganset's College and Career Pathways will provide students with access to relevant and rigorous college and career preparation programs. These college and career preparation programs will represent, but will not be limited to, critical and emerging industries in Rhode Island and high-growth industries within the region and nation.

This policy, along with other state regulations, standards, and applicable state statutes, is designed to promote and advance four principles for Ponaganset's College and Career Pathways:

- 1) Provide a public educational facility with the primary purpose of providing college and career preparation programs and other forms of career and technical education, either as a stand-alone institution and/or in conjunction with collaborating secondary schools;
- 2) Prepare learners for postsecondary education and careers resulting in employment;
- 3) Support student postsecondary success, where appropriate, through planning, credentialing, industry partnerships, and articulation with higher education and training programs;
- 4) Invest in high-quality, highly effective preparation programs offered through a multiple pathway delivery system; and
- 5) Empower future-ready graduates with passion, purpose, and proficiency to Start Here, Go Big!®

Ponaganset's College and Career Pathways Standards

Ponaganset High School will establish general admission guidelines and criteria for all Pathways offering enrollment of students from other districts as part of the statewide career and technical education system. Ponaganset High School may develop and implement program specific admissions criteria and procedures for specific programs. Program admission criteria shall be formally adopted and made publicly available. Program admission criteria developed by the school will include the following:

- 1) Criteria used in the selection process;
- 2) Application process and continuing enrollment conditions; and
- 3) Review and appeal process for any student denied admission to a career preparation program.

Application Materials

Application forms may be obtained from the Ponaganset High School Guidance Department or on the Foster-Glocester Regional School District website. Assistance in completing these materials is available by contacting the Director of the Ponaganset High School Guidance Department by phone at 401-710-7500 or by email at admissions@fgschools.com. Students residing in Foster and Glocester will receive priority scheduling for enrollment into courses in CTE Pathway programs. In accordance with Rhode Island General Law §16-21.1-2, transportation to Ponaganset High School will be provided by the sending districts in accordance with the transportation zones established by the state of Rhode Island and this policy shall automatically be amended if the state transportation zones change. (Currently, the Region 2 Transportation Zone as defined by the state of Rhode Island includes Foster, Glocester, Scituate, Coventry, Warwick, West Warwick, and East Greenwich). Students residing in other communities are entitled to attend Ponaganset High School's College and Career Pathways Program; however, they must provide their own transportation. The Foster-Glocester Regional School District reserves the right to provide out-of-district transportation using depot stops to other communities. If the

State of Rhode Island modifies the regional transportation zones, the communities providing transportation will automatically update without the need for further action of the School Committee.

Admissions Timeline

The timeline may be adjusted by the Foster-Glocester Superintendent of Schools if it is in the best interest of students or the district.

Open House

Ponaganset High School will conduct an Open House for all interested students and their parents in the Fall.

Early Acceptance Applications

Applications for Early Acceptance in a Ponaganset College & Career Pathways Program will be accepted from September 1st thru November 30th. Decisions on these applications will be communicated to families by December 30th. Priority is given to in-district students. Any remaining available seats will be filled by qualified applicants using a lottery system in accordance with the RI Regulations on Career and Technical Education. A waiting list will be established where space is not available.

Open Enrollment Applications

Applications for Open Enrollment will continue to be accepted from December thru June. Priority will continue to be given to in-district students. Once the Master schedule is developed, any remaining available seats will be filled by qualified applicants using a lottery system in accordance with the RI Regulations on Career and Technical Education. A waiting list will be established where space is not available.

Late Enrollment Applications

Applications for Late Enrollment will continue to be accepted from all Rhode Island districts from July through the school year. Any remaining available seats, will be filled by qualified applicants using a lottery system in accordance with the RI Regulations on Career and Technical Education. A waiting list will be established when space is not available.

Admissions and Program Continuation Criteria

These procedures and criteria apply to admissions to all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade programs.

Age and Grade Criteria

Students entering into grades nine, ten, or eleven may apply for enrollment in Ponaganset High School's College & Career Pathways Program. Students residing in Foster and Glocester will be considered first when assigning students to courses. Preference will also be given to students in their first or second year of high school, followed by students in their third year of high school.

Academic Enrollment Criteria

All students interested in participating in a College and Career Pathway Program who did not meet or exceed the standard on a recent Rhode Island State Assessment or comparable standardized diagnostic assessment must be diagnostically assessed to determine their level of proficiency as it relates to established program criteria.

Ponaganset High School may select an alternative diagnostic assessment to determine students' mathematics and reading grade-level ability. Students who do not meet the established level of proficiency in Reading and Mathematics (as outlined below) on the state or comparable standardized diagnostic assessments and who do not take these diagnostic exams, may not be considered for admission to Ponaganset High School's Pathways Program. This requirement does not apply to residents of Foster and Glocester who want to enroll in a CTE Program at Ponaganset High School.

All students, in order to be considered for general admission to a Ponaganset's College & Career Pathways Program, must meet the established level of proficiency in Reading and Mathematics as follows:

Reading Comprehension within two years of grade level at the time of assessment – (Ex. Current 8th Grade student in their fifth month of school is required to achieve a Grade Equivalent (GE) score of 6.5

or greater).

Mathematics within two years of grade level at the time of assessment – (Ex. Current 8th Grade student in their fifth month of school is required to achieve a Grade Equivalent (GE) score of 6.5 or greater).

As an alternative, the sending high school may provide documentation (i.e., transcripts, portfolio of work, alternate assessments) that demonstrates achievement at these levels of proficiency. Students must earn a passing grade in their chosen pathway program in order to proceed to the next level of that program.

For students with disabilities, either under IDEA or Section 504, a portfolio of his/her work in Mathematics and/or Language Arts may be submitted. For students who do not meet the established criteria under the general admissions process, an additional review may be undertaken of his/her portfolio materials and additional testing.

Specific College and Career Pathway Program Admission Criteria

In addition to the general admissions criteria previously noted, students interested in pursuing a Ponaganset College & Career Pathway Program may need to meet specific program admissions criteria where indicated. Ponaganset High School will establish general admission guidelines for College and Career Pathway Programs based on district guidelines and may develop and implement admissions policy/criteria for specific programs.

Program admission criteria shall be formally adopted and made publicly available. Program admission criteria developed by the school will include the following: 1) criteria used in the selection process; 2) the application process and continuing enrollment conditions; and 3) a review and appeal process for any student denied admission to a career preparation program.

Enrollment criteria shall not unfairly target students on the basis of color, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability. The enrollment policy shall be published in the student handbook. Career preparation program policies shall include a review and appeals process for students denied access to a preparation program due to admissions criteria or whose enrollment has been suspended and/or terminated. A copy of program policies shall be provided to each student and family upon enrollment in the career preparation program.

Over-Enrolled and Under-Enrolled Programs

In cases where the number of qualified applicants exceeds available space, a lottery will be held to select among those students who meet the entrance criteria. The general admission criteria may be relaxed or the specific criteria may be relaxed in a specific program if there are unfilled seats in the program and the high school provides appropriate support in Literacy and Mathematics consistent with the student's personalized literacy plan. In cases where the number of students whose scores are below the general admission criteria exceeds the space available, a lottery shall be used to select from among those interested students who have completed the application process as outlined above. A program waiting list will be established for those students not selected.

When a waiting list is necessary, Ponaganset reserves the right to require a Commitment Letter to be signed by accepted students and their parent/guardian.

Sibling Policy

A sibling policy exists to accommodate families with more than one child of high school age to attend the same school so they may more effectively support the learning of their children. Enrollment preference is given to applicants whose sibling(s) are currently enrolled at Ponaganset High School. We define siblings as children that share the same parent, guardian and/or caregiver that reside in the same household. Sibling preference will be given provided that all other factors are equal and the sibling meets the academic criteria outlined above. If the sibling meets the enrollment criteria and is accepted into a Ponaganset CTE program, the sibling will not be required to participate in a lottery.

Removal from Programs

Students are responsible for meeting all individual pathway requirements, maintaining academic expectations, and following timelines. Ponaganset High School reserves the right to reconsider or withdraw acceptance of any student that does not maintain eligibility/good standing status. Students may also be removed from Ponaganset's CTE program for the following:

1. Excessive absences, tardiness, or serious and/or excessive discipline referrals.
2. Failure to earn a passing grade in a required pathway course.
3. Failure to matriculate to the next grade.
4. Failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Ponaganset High School and policies of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District.

In programs that require safety standards (OSHA, etc.), students must consistently meet those expectations. In the event that a student fails to consistently meet safety standards, a retraining opportunity will be provided and documented. Subsequently, if a student continues to not meet safety standards, the Superintendent may remove the student from his/her College and Career Pathway Program, with notification to the sending district, when appropriate.

Application Process

Parents, in consultation with their children, may complete Ponaganset's Online Application identifying their first and second choice of Pathways before or after taking the following steps:

1. Parents and students should visit our website to learn more about our academic, career, and co-curricular learning opportunities.
2. Parents and students should attend an Open House to see first-hand our college and career pathways and state-of-the art facilities.
3. Students may also sign up for Chieftain for a Day to experience the culture and educational environment of Ponaganset's College & Career Pathways Program.
4. Students/parents should meet with the guidance counselor from his/her sending school to have his/her student records sent to the Ponaganset High School Guidance Department.
5. Parents/students may contact the Guidance Department or the Career Pathways Supervisor at Ponaganset High School to discuss College and Career Pathway Program opportunities available to them.

Ponaganset High School reserves the right to interview students as part of the application process.

Upon conditional acceptance, we will notify the sending district school of required additional information as identified in the student application such as Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, etc. to determine any further resources the applicant may require.

Ponaganset High School reserves the right to reconsider and withdraw conditional acceptance status of any student that does not maintain eligibility status/good standing status. For further information, call or visit the Ponaganset High School Guidance Department.

Notification of Right to Appeal

Every student who is qualified and accepted for admission into a Ponaganset High School's College & Career Pathways Program (college, career and technical education program) shall have access to such programs, enrollment permitting, and shall be provided free attendance by their local school committee, i.e., tuition and transportation, when appropriate.

If a student is not accepted for enrollment in the Ponaganset College & Career Pathway Program the parent/student will receive a denial letter and be informed of the appeal process. The parent/student will also be informed about the procedures for reapplication, steps the student can take to increase the likelihood of later acceptance, and the appeal process.

Appeals Process

Any student denied placement in a College & Career Pathway Program at Ponaganset High School shall have the right to appeal that decision. The parent/student may appeal the decision directly to the principal, then to the Superintendent, then to the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee with a right of further appeal to the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner's hearing should be conducted and a decision rendered within 15 days of receipt of the appeal. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to deny students with disabilities or their parents from availing themselves of Due Process rights under state special education regulations.

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