



Beacon Charter High School for the Arts

Graduation Requirements as Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 2009

Statement of Need: In accordance with State Board of Regents' mandate all public school districts will pass a graduation policy that includes three components: NECAP testing, Performance Based Criteria and Carnegie Units. These requirements fulfill the regulatory and mandated request.

Guiding Principles: This graduation requirement has three tenets which are inviolate. They are:

- ✓ All students can achieve proficiency and must be offered numerous opportunities to be instructed and assessed in all Grade Span Expectations which are embedded throughout the program of study.
- ✓ Standardized assessments such as NECAP or NWEA count towards the fulfillment of graduation requirements and no diploma can be conferred without a minimum of two (2) on the NECAP proficiency descriptor system being achieved.
- ✓ All students must be capable of producing "academic deliverables" in a performance based system and to achieve this end, scholarly activities such as the creation of MLA and APA papers, the importation of graphs, charts, tables and figures to other formats and the production of electronic presentation materials (both individually and as a group) must be done no less than twice in each course in each semester.

Composite Measure needed to Graduate:

1. NECAP Assessments Thirty three percent (33%) of a student's 11th grade English Language Arts, math and science course grade will be earned when, minimally, a two (2) is achieved on the NECAP proficiency rating scale in all three tests. This figure represents approximately 9% of the students overall grading while at Beacon Charter. In the event that a 2 is not achieved, and multiple opportunities to take NECAP are not present, the school will employ its internal NWEA system to evidence significant growth.
2. Performance Based Criteria: Students must pass the senior class in Capstone in order to graduate. Additionally, portfolio requirements will be met through the consistent application of Guiding Principle three.
3. Carnegie Units: Students need to complete thirty two Carnegie units found within the approved program of study in order to graduate. The courses align with the Regents' PBGR mandated subject areas and transfer students may be accommodated to some degree (on a case by case basis), however, Regents' subject areas, PBGR and NECAP requirements cannot be waived.