

New Roots Charter School Graduation Requirements

Our New Roots Charter School academic program is designed to support all students in exploring their passion and purpose and developing the knowledge and skills needed to embark on a satisfying life and career path after high school. We aim for students to have an enriching, meaningful experience during these critical years that support them in their development as a whole person.

Our program is designed in a four-year sequence featuring interdisciplinary themes and projects and core courses for college credit in grades 11 and 12. This document details the requirements and options at each grade level that move students towards the goal of graduating in four years, having laid the groundwork to pursue either college or meaningful, well-compensated work. Every September, our *Sense of Place Orientation* offers students broader and deeper understandings of our community's unique opportunities and challenges.

We are the first four-year high school program in the nation to teach **Education for Sustainability (EfS) Standards** sequentially through content and instructional practices, which cover the following educational visions:

- *Inventing the Future*
- *Strong Sense of Place*
- *Multiple Perspectives/Ways of Knowing*

Lower School Grades 9 and 10: Essential Questions

Focus on: *Systems Dynamics and Change, Natural Laws, Cultural Traditions and Change*

9th Grade: Who am I? Where am I? Getting oriented!

Project themes of water and food explore the relationship between human and natural systems and support success on the Living Environment Regents exam

10th Grade: Where have we come from? Understanding history.

Project themes explore how people can be agents of change and responses to climate change and support success on the Global History Regents exam.

Upper School Grades 11 and 12: Essential Questions

Focus on: *Citizenship, Healthy Commons, Sustainable Economics*

11th Grade Essential Questions: Where are we going? How will we get there?

Project themes explore how citizens can protect and regenerate essential natural resources and create more just social relationships while supporting success on English and US History Regents Exams

12th Grade Essential Questions: What is my role? How will I prepare myself?

Senior Project Capstone requires students to research and develop an action plan on an issue related to a U.N. Sustainable Development goal in our community.

New York State Regents Diploma Requirements

*Below are the graduation requirements in New York State for the [Regents Diploma](#), [Regents Diploma with Honors](#), and [Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation](#).

To Earn a New Roots Diploma

Students who enter New Roots in grades 9 or 10 on track to meet graduation requirements in four years must fulfill all New York State graduation requirements (total of 22 credits), as well as the requirements established by our charter. These include:

- 4 credits in English
- 4 credits in Social Studies
- 4 credits in Mathematics
- 4 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Fine Arts
- 1 credit in Language Other Than English
- .5 credit in Health
- 2 credits in Physical Education (.25 per semester)
- 3.5 credits in Electives
- Required Regents Examinations (4-7)*
- 4 credits (4 years) of College and Career Success Seminars
- 1 credit of Roots of Success (green career exploration course)
- Post-High School Plan (written)
- Senior Capstone Project
- Completion of the College Application Process (even if student intends to enter the workforce after graduation)
- Earn College Credit for 1+ classes (marked with **)
- 30 hours of Community Service a year (by participating in Service Crew)
- Complete 4 credits for chosen [Pathway](#)

New Roots students who meet the New York State standards are awarded a New York State Regents Diploma. Students can also earn a Regents Diploma with Honors or Advanced Designation, as detailed below.

Regents Diploma Requirements

Earn a total of 22 units of credit in the following subjects:

- 4 Credits in English
- 4 credits in Social Studies
 - 2 Global Studies
 - 1 United States History
 - .5 Government
 - .5 Economics
- 3 credits in Mathematics
- 3 credits in Science
 - 1 Life Science, 1 Physical Science
- 1 credit in a World Language
- 1 credit in Fine/Performing Arts
- .5 credit in Health
- 2 credits in Physical Education (enrolled every semester in high school)
- 3.5 credits in Electives
- Complete [One Pathway](#)

Pass (4) Regents Exams (with a 65+ score): in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Under the “4+1” pathway assessment option, students must take and pass four required Regents exams (one in each of the following subjects: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) and complete a comparably rigorous pathway to meet the fifth assessment requirement for graduation. Students who enter New Roots after the start of grade 9 with credit deficiencies may graduate by fulfilling Regents diploma requirements only, at the sole discretion of the school. All other students must complete all New Roots graduation requirements.

Regents Diploma with Honors Requirements

Earn a total of 22 units of Credit as listed for a Regents Diploma plus

Earn a 90+ score on Regents Exams: in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Students must complete all New Roots graduation requirements to be awarded a diploma with Honors.

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation Requirements

Earn a total of 22 units of credit as listed for a Regents Diploma plus:

Pass 7 Regents Exams (with a 65+ score):

- English
- Global History
- United States History
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Life Science
- Physical Science

Complete one sequence option below:

- Earn 2 additional credits in World Languages (for a total of 3 credits) and pass the locally developed Checkpoint B World Languages Exam
- 5-unit sequence in the Arts
- 5-unit sequence in Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Students must complete all New Roots graduation requirements to be awarded a diploma with advanced designation.