

What is the 990 Mandate?

Education Reform Act 1997

603 CMR 27.00: Structured Learning Time

- Establishes the minimum hours of structured learning time for students at the high school level at 990 per year. This could include:
 - Core subjects (math, English, world language, social studies, science, the arts, and vocational courses).
 - "Other subjects" include electives such as senior seminar, video broadcasting, concert choir, etc.
 - Optional school programs that are "...offered by the school district to enrich the educational experience of its students and meet educational goals..."

Where is ABRHS in meeting the mandate?

- Approximately 16% of ABRHS students meet the minimum 990 of structured learning time as mandated by the MA Department of Education
 - Freshman = 953 hours
 - Sophomores = 845 hours
 - Juniors = 838 hours
 - Seniors = 766 hours

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Corrective Action Notes

10/5/06

ABRHS Guiding Vision in Meeting the Mandate

The Education Reform Act's 990 mandate presents both a challenge and an opportunity. In addition to meeting the mandate, ABRHS is committed to viewing the challenge as an opportunity to examine our structures and course offerings to ensure that we are working to meet the needs of *all* students in our increasingly diverse population.

In the spirit of equity of access to educational opportunities, our 990 plan will prioritize course offerings during the school day as the most effective way for students to meet the requirements. We will then consider common core, school-related clubs, committees, activities, and community-service learning opportunities. Courses offered in the evenings and summer institutes will be the next tier of consideration. School-related experiences, activities, and community-service learning will also be considered when all of the above options are put effectively into place.

Options for Meeting the Mandate

Course Bundles

Global Institute

This bundle of courses works toward achieving the overarching goal for ABRHS over the next five years: preparing our students to be responsible global citizens.

- Armenian Studies
- Irish Literature
- Gender Studies
- Economic Development)
- Asian History and Culture
- African History and Culture
- World Geography
- Women's Studies
- World Current Events
- Comparative Government
- World Language Survey
- Exchange Programs (would need program coordinator)
- The study of war through art, music, and literature
- Leadership in Global Society
- Ancient and Modern China
- Continuity and Change in Japan
- Current Issues in Africa
- Modern Vietnam
- Islam & Muslims in the contemporary World

will be focus -

Hands-On Opportunities

This bundle of courses is geared toward non-dominant populations of students whose needs are not being met given the current curricular structure; however, they are offered with belief that all students would benefit from hands-on learning opportunities.

- Fine Arts (Staff)
- Hospitality Industry (apprenticeship: Manning, Martin, Motzi)
- Culinary Arts
- Cooking and Food Science
- The History and Culture of Food
- Woodworking Tech
- Printing/Graphic Arts Production
- Carpentry apprenticeship (Outside contacts)
- Child Development/Child Studies
- Technical Theater/Stage Crew
- Drafting, CISCO, CProgramming
- Project-Based Engineering
- Health Week/Health Issues
- Group-work outdoor course: kayaking, hiking, orienteering
- Health and Wellness
- Hands-on math applications
- Restoration of Paintings
- International Cooking
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“Open Studio” Independent Studies

These would be run on a drop-in, sign in basis. Students would work on independent projects and be supervised during the studio time. These options would make excellent use of ABRHS facilities.

- Fine Arts (Art Studio)
- Graphic Arts/Design (Computer Lab)
- Woodworking Tech (Wood Tech facilities)
- Writing Lab (Computer Lab)
- World Language Lab (Language Lab)
- Print Media Production (Lab/Printing)
- Math Lab
- Science Lab
- Library Research technology module (Library Lab)
- Theatre technology
- Acting and Directing

Assistantships

Students would apply for assistantships in various departments. Assistantships would be clearly defined for a predetermined amount of hours and would be supervised by a faculty member.

- Library
- Academic Support Center (peer tutors)
- Teaching Assistant positions within departments (11th & 12th graders); along the lines of the mentor model but with more of an active role and possible support of teachers outside of class.
- Child Development/Child Studies
- Special Education (resource room support, ODP)
- Physical Education
- Administration (working with Lani, Kay Steeves, etc)
- Lab support
- Theater Arts

Leadership and Service

- Community-Service learning coordination for hours
- Student leadership seminars
- Club/Activity hours (set bundle amount, signed off by advisor)
- ABSAF phone-a-thon credit hours?
- Handbook Committee, Academic Integrity Committee, VOICE committee, Principal's Advisory Committee, Class Officers, School Council Representative, School Committee Representative, Athletic Advisory Committee
- School Store