

# **Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School**

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

June 21, 2017

Amended February 21, 2018

Amended August 25, 2021

Amended June 22, 2022

Approved October 18, 2023

Approved October 23, 2024

available online at: [www.oldcolony.us](http://www.oldcolony.us)

En caso de necesitar esta política de admisión en otro idioma, por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina central al 508-763-8011.

Que você deve exigir esta política de admissão em outro idioma, entre em contato com o escritório principal em 508-763-8011.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

An admission process is necessary in vocational technical schools where space is a limiting factor. Vocational technical laboratories (shops) are designed and equipped to serve a specific maximum number of students safely. Consequently, a complex of such laboratories lacks both the space and flexibility to accommodate the possible needs and/or interests of all applicants. Therefore, a selection process is necessary to determine which applicants may most benefit from such educational opportunities. All applicants to grades nine through eleven at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will be evaluated using the criteria contained in this Admission Policy. The District School Committee of Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School approved this policy on August 25, 2021.

### **II. EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School admits students and makes available to them its advantages, privileges, and courses of study without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, housing status, sexual orientation, limited English proficiency, or disability as defined and required by state and federal laws.

If there is a student with limited English proficiency, a qualified representative from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will assist the applicant in completing the necessary forms and assist in interpreting during the entire application and admissions process.

Disabled students may voluntarily self-identify for the purpose of requesting reasonable accommodations during the entire application and admission process.

Information on limited English proficiency and disability submitted voluntarily by the applicant, for the purpose of receiving assistance and accommodations during the entire application and admission process, will not affect their admission to the school.

### **III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Any eighth or ninth grade student who is a resident of Acushnet, Carver, Lakeville, Rochester or Mattapoisett who expects to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by his/her local school district is eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year provided that space is available. Resident students will be evaluated using the criteria contained in this admission policy. Priority for admission will be given to residents (students from Acushnet, Carver, Lakeville, Rochester or Mattapoisett) according to the District Agreement and meeting all of the application and criteria selection.

**Non-resident students** will be evaluated using the criteria contained in this Admission Policy and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 74 s. 7S and 8A. Resident students who meet the minimum requirements for admission shall be admitted prior to acceptance of any non-resident students seeking the same course of study. The Guidelines for Vocational Technical Education Program Nonresident Student Tuition Process Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 74 are located at <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter74>.

**Transfer students** from other vocational technical schools are eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year to grades 9-11 at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School provided they expect to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their current school. Transfer students will be evaluated using the criteria contained in this Admission Policy.

**Home-Schooled Applicants** may apply for admission to grade nine or ten at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School, including admission during the school year, provided all admissions policy criteria are followed. The home schooled student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a copy of the Home School Approval Letter from the sending school superintendent. Home schooled students will be accepted to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School according to the selection criteria contained in this admission policy. Please refer to Section VI - Application Process for additional information regarding selection criteria.

**Homeless Applicants** will be accepted to Old Colony according to the selection criteria contained in this admission policy per Homeless Education Advisory 2015-9.

Students who have been expelled from school pursuant to General Law Chapter 71, Section 37H of the Educational Reform Act of 1993, are not eligible to apply for admission to the school.

Old Colony does not participate in School Choice.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School is located on an eighty (80) acre campus in Rochester, the geographic center of the five (5) member town school district which includes: Acushnet, Carver, Lakeville, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School is committed to providing quality vocational technical and academic programs.

It is the responsibility of the Old Colony Superintendent to supervise the administration of the policies and procedures required to admit and enroll applicants in conformity with this Admission Policy.

Old Colony has an Admissions Committee appointed by the Superintendent. The committee consists of representatives of the Administration, Guidance, Special Education, Vocational Technical, and Academic Departments. Responsibilities of the Admissions committee include:

- a. determination of standards for admission
- b. development and implementation of admission procedures
- c. processing of applications
- d. ranking of students
- e. acceptance of students according to the procedure and criteria in the admission policy
- f. establishment and maintenance of a waiting list of acceptable candidates

A member of the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School Admissions Team is responsible for disseminating information about the school through visits to local middle/junior high schools, local school assemblies and press releases. Applications should be submitted to Old Colony using the online application program. In the event that access to technology is an issue, information may also be submitted to a member of the Old Colony Regional High School Admissions Team. The Admissions Policy is approved by the Old Colony District School Committee prior to filing with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

#### **V. RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School disseminates information about the school through a variety of methods.

- a. Old Colony hosts an annual luncheon for area Guidance Counselors to review the Admission Policy and procedures.
- b. In the fall or early winter, an Old Colony representative visits the District towns to conduct a presentation of the programs available at Old Colony. This includes discussion of opportunities for students to pursue non-traditional careers.

- c. In the fall, Old Colony provides transportation for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from member schools to attend a vocational exploration day at Old Colony.
- d. Students are encouraged to tour the school. The tour includes presentations about vocational-technical programs including academic offerings, athletic programs, extra-curricular activities and clubs.
- d. In the fall, a Career Awareness Open House is held for parents, guardians, and interested members of the surrounding communities.
- e. Articles are published, using various mediums, about specific accomplishments of Old Colony students in traditional and non-traditional programs, cooperative education, and the school in general.
- f. The Old Colony website contains pertinent up-to-date information about the school, student accomplishments, academic, vocational-technical, student clubs, and athletic programs.
- g. Additional meetings and tours for parents/guardians and applicants are arranged upon request through the Guidance department.

## **VI. APPLICATION PROCESS**

APPLICATION PROCESS-FOR FALL ADMISSION TO THE NINTH AND TENTH GRADE (for consideration in the first round of admissions, applications must be submitted by the second Friday in February)

- a. Students interested in applying to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School for fall admission to the ninth, tenth, grades must:
  - Obtain an application from their sending school Guidance Counselor or from the Old Colony Guidance Office, or apply online from the Old Colony website.
  - Return the completed application to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School at which time their respective Guidance Department will be contacted by Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School for supporting documentation.
  - Attend a scheduled interview with an Old Colony representative at their sending school or Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School.

\*Protocol for Interview Process

Old Colony staff members who interview students as part of the Admission Policy requirements will adhere to the following protocol.

- Participate in a training for interviewing techniques;
- Maintain confidentiality;

- Ask only the questions on the interview form;
- Score the interview based on the Admission Policy criteria;
- Submit all scoring and interview documentation to the Guidance Department to ensure safe and confidential storage; and
- Documentation will be reviewed by the Admissions Team.

Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School interviews students without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, housing status, sexual orientation, limited English proficiency, or disability as defined and required by state and federal laws.

b. It is the responsibility of the sending school counselors to:

1. Complete their portion of the application form.
2. Forward the completed applications to the Admission Team at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School by the second Friday in February. Complete applications include:
  - i. Completed application form (including required signatures).
  - ii. Transcripts are required for all applications. For fall admission, the final grades of the previous school year along with mid-year grades for the current school year in English language arts, social studies, math and science from the local school report card/transcript are required. For applications to grade ten (fall admission) the average of the previous school year and terms one & two of the current school year marks in English language arts, social studies, math and science from the local school report card/transcript are required.
  - iii. Attendance records are required for all applications. For applications to grade nine (fall admission), the sum of grade seven and terms one & two grade eight unexcused absences from the local school report card/transcript are required.
  - iv. For applications to grade ten (fall admission) the sum of the previous school year and terms one & two current school year unexcused absences from the local school report card/transcript is required.
  - v. Disciplinary records are required for all applications. For applications to grade nine (fall admission), the average of grade seven and terms one & two grade eight assessments of behavior from the local school report card or from the local school guidance counselor's assessment are required. For applications to grade ten (fall admission) the average of the previous school year and terms one & two of the current school year assessments of behavior from the local school report card or from the local school guidance counselor's assessment are required.
  - vi. For applications to grades nine and ten (fall admission), the local school guidance counselor's recommendation is required.

- c. Applications are considered complete when all required application materials are received by Old Colony.
- d. If incomplete applications are received, the following procedures will be followed:
  - 1. The Admission Team at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will notify the sending school counselor responsible for submitting the application and the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) that the application is incomplete and will request completion.
  - 2. If after notifying the local school guidance counselor and parent(s)/guardian(s), the problem is not resolved and the application remains incomplete for ten school days, the application may be voided.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS - FOR ADMISSION TO THE NINTH, TENTH, AND ELEVENTH GRADES FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR\*

- a. Applications for grade nine will be accepted throughout the course of the school year. Applications for grade ten or eleven (from another Chapter 74 program) must be submitted no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>. The following steps should be taken for those interested in transferring to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School:
  - 1. Obtain an application from their sending school Guidance Counselor or from the Old Colony Guidance Office, or apply online from the Old Colony website.
  - 2. Return the completed application form to their local school guidance counselor by the deadline set by the guidance counselor
  - 3. Attend an interview at the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. If the applicant or parent/guardian cannot provide transportation, a representative from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will go to the local school to interview the applicant.
  - 4. Applications for transfer students should be completed and received by September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. It is the responsibility of the local school guidance counselors to:
  - 1. Complete their portions of the application form.
  - 2. Forward the completed applications to the admission recruiter at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. Complete applications include:
    - i. Completed application form (including required signatures).
    - ii. For applications to grades nine, ten & eleven (admission during the school year), the current school year to the date of the application marks in English language arts, social studies, math and science from the local school report card/ transcript are required.

- iii. For applications to grades nine, ten & eleven (admission during the school year), the current school year to the date of the application unexcused absences from the local school report card/transcript are required.
- iv. For applications to grades nine, ten, & eleven (admission during the school year), the current school year to the date of the application assessments of behavior from the local school report card or from the local school report card/transcript are required.
- v. For applications to grades nine, ten and eleven (admission during the school year), the local school guidance counselor's recommendation is required.

c. If incomplete applications are received, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Admission Office at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will notify the local school guidance counselor responsible for submitting the application and the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) that the application is incomplete and will request completion.
2. If after notifying the local school guidance counselor and parent(s)/guardian(s), the problem is not resolved and the application remains incomplete for ten school days, the application may be voided.

#### LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the second Friday in February will be evaluated using the same criteria as other applications and their composite scores will be evaluated using the criteria contained in this admission policy.

#### TRANSFER STUDENTS

Applications from students who are enrolled in a state-approved (Chapter 74) vocational technical high school program in another school (transfer students) will be considered for admission (including admission during the school year) if they relocate away from their current school and wish to pursue the same program of study at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School provided that space is available in the technical program of enrollment. All transfer applicants must attend an informational meeting at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. If the applicant or parent/guardian cannot provide transportation, an official from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School may arrange to go to the local school to meet with the applicant. Transfer applications will be evaluated according to the provisions of this Admission Policy.

### WITHDRAWN STUDENTS

Students who withdraw from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School and who are attending, or not attending another high school, may re-apply following the procedures contained in this Admission Policy and will be evaluated using the criteria contained herein.



## VII. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Admission Board will use weighted admissions criteria to processes completed applications. Each applicant will be assigned a score derived from the sum of the sub scores of the following criteria:

- A. Attendance: Cumulative Unexcused Absences - Maximum 30 points (15 points each year)
- 15 points - 0 to 3 days absent
  - 10 points - 4 to 6 days absent
  - 5 points - 7 to 9 days absent
  - 0 points - 10 or more days absent
- B. Conduct: Maximum 20 points (10 points each year)
- 10 points - Zero suspensions or incidents imposed pursuant to MGL c.71 37H, 37H½, 37H¾
  - 0 points - One or more incidents resulting in suspension imposed pursuant to MGL c.71 37H, 37H½, 37H¾
- C. Counselor recommendation: Maximum 5 points
- 5 points - Excellent candidate
  - 4 points - Above average candidate
  - 3 points - Average candidate
  - 2 points - Below average candidate
  - 0 points - Poor candidate/Not recommended
- D. Academic Record: Maximum 20 points (10 points each year)  
[taken from English, math, social studies and science grades]
- 10 points - A/A- average (90-100%)
  - 8 points - B/B- average (80-89%)
  - 6 points - C/C- average (70-79%)
  - 4 points - D/D- average (60-69%)
  - 0 points - F average (below 60%)
- E. Interview: Maximum 25 points
- 25 points – Excellent candidate
  - 20 points – Above average candidate
  - 15 points – Average candidate
  - 10 points – Below average candidate
  - 0 points – Poor candidate

After points are given in each area, the points are totaled for each applicant. A maximum total of one hundred (100) points can be earned. In the event that scores for acceptance and wait list are the same point total, high scores in the following areas will be utilized as tie-breakers: 1<sup>st</sup> Interview, 2<sup>nd</sup> Academic Record, 3<sup>rd</sup> Conduct, 4<sup>th</sup> Attendance, 5<sup>th</sup> Recommendation.

## **VIII. SELECTION PROCESS**

The Admission Board at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will examine, discuss, and make recommendations for action on the applicants. The Board considers scholastic achievement, attendance, conduct, local guidance counselor's recommendation, and interview results. Applications are reviewed, processed, and assigned points by grade level.

After a point total for each applicant has been determined, all applicants are placed in descending order based on their point total. Applicants are then accepted in order of the point total they have achieved. The applicant with the highest point total is accepted first, the applicant with the second highest point total is accepted second, and so on until all seats are filled. All applicants are accepted, declined, or placed on a waiting list.

If openings occur, the seats are filled by accepting applicants from the waiting list. These applicants are accepted in the order of their positions on the waiting list as determined by the total points given according to the selection criteria.

Applications received after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be evaluated using the same criteria as all other applications and their composite scores will be integrated in rank order on the established waiting list.

## **XI. ACCEPTANCE, REVIEW, and APPEALS**

Upon notification from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School indicating that the applicant was not accepted, the applicant may request a review of the decision by sending a letter to the principal within ten working days of the notification. The principal will respond in writing to the letter with the findings of the review within ten working days. If after the review, the parent(s)/guardian(s) wishes to appeal the findings of the review, he/she can do so by submitting a request in writing to the superintendent/director within ten working days. The superintendent/director's decision will be final and will be communicated in writing to the parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten working days of the notification of the appeal.

## **X. ENROLLMENT**

In order to enroll at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School for the fall, applicants must have been promoted to the grade they wish to enter by their local school district. Students who are accepted and intend to enroll must notify Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School of their intention by the notification date identified in their acceptance offer. Students who do not respond by the notification deadline may be placed on the waiting list.

## XI. VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAM PLACEMENT

All ninth graders are exposed to an exploratory program that lasts eight weeks in duration. Each student rotates through all thirteen vocational programs. Five exploratory shops are selected by the student to gauge initial interest and potential changes for data collection purposes. The rotations are such that each student is in each vocational area for approximately three days and no less than two days.

After the conclusion of the eight week exploratory phase, each of the ninth grade students completes a Vocational Program Selection Sheet. At that time, each is asked to select the vocational programs of interest in rank order. The selections are made in order from 1<sup>st</sup> choice to 13<sup>th</sup> choice.

Program assignments are made based on the cumulative score that each student has earned during the exploratory phase in each of the thirteen areas of exploration. The Vocational grade average will account for 85 points of the cumulative score. The related grade average will account for 15 points of the cumulative score. Scores are calculated using the following criteria:

Students are evaluated by the instructors daily in related and in shop. Students may earn a total of up to 100 points per program. A grade is calculated for each exploratory program. After completing the exploratory programs, an overall exploratory average will be calculated.

### Related (15 points maximum)

- Applied Academic Foundation
- Engagement
- Professionalism

### Shop (85 points maximum)

- Employability
- Safety
- Professionalism
- Workmanship
- Productivity
- Engagement

The categorical criterion are listed below:

Advanced	5 points
Proficient	4 points
Approaching Proficiency	3 points
Needs Improvement	2 points

In addition to the grade averages, attendance and discipline are factored into the ranking score. Points are subtracted from the score for excessive unexcused absences, tardies/dismissals or

excessive disciplinary infractions based upon the rubric below. For the purpose of this rubric, a disciplinary incident is defined by an event resulting in a write up with a consequence of a warning or detention.

Attendance

0-3 days/tardies/dismissals	unexcused	0 points deducted
4-6 days/tardies/dismissals	unexcused	1 point deducted
7-9 days/tardies/dismissals	unexcused	2 points deducted
9+ days/tardies/dismissals	unexcused	5 points deducted

Discipline

0-3 incidents		0 points deducted
4-6 incidents		1 point deducted
7-9 incidents		2 points deducted
9+ incidents or suspension		5 points deducted

Once the ranking score has been determined, students are placed according to their choices. Once a program is filled, students are given their second choices, then third choices, etc. until all vocational programs are filled.

All incoming tenth grade and transfer students are placed in vocational areas based on available space. The availability of vocational spots is a factor in accepting/placing these students. Transfer requests are accepted from all students as space allows. Students are encouraged to place their names on waiting lists. After enrolling, any transfer student may request that his/her name be added to an existing waiting list for a given program. Current Old Colony transfers will take priority over late acceptance transfers as space permits.

**XII. VOCATIONAL PLACEMENT AND APPEALS**

The applicant’s parent(s)/guardian(s), upon notification from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School indicating that the applicant was not accepted in a particular program or placed on a waiting list for a particular vocational program, may request a review of the decision by sending a letter to the principal within ten working days of the notification. The principal will respond in writing to the letter with the findings of the review within ten working days. The principal’s decision will be final.

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