

## THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Generally

The Board of Education has established educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning (SOLs), which form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years beyond.

The Tazewell County School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education.

Tazewell County School Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations. The requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from high school are those in effect when the student enters ninth grade for the first time.

### Virginia Assessment Program

In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student is expected to take the tests following instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest grade level, following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8 VAC 20-131-30. Schools use the test results in kindergarten through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

Each student in middle and secondary school takes all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction. The superintendent certifies to the Department of Education that the division's policy for dropping courses ensures that students' course schedules are not changed to avoid end-of-course SOL tests. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-110. Students may earn verified credits in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Students are not required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade.

Participation in the Virginia Assessment Program by students with disabilities is prescribed by provisions of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. All students with disabilities are assessed with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary.

Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) participates in the Virginia Assessment Program. A school-based committee convenes and makes determinations regarding the participation

level of EL students in the Virginia Assessment Program. In kindergarten through eighth grade, EL students may be granted a one-time exemption from SOL testing in the areas of writing, and history and social science.

## Definitions

### Authentic Performance Assessment

An “Authentic Performance Assessment” is a test that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education that requires students to perform a task or create a product that is typically scored using a rubric.

### Standard Unit of Credit

A “standard unit of credit” or “standard credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course. A standard unit of credit may be awarded based on a waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit.

### Verified Unit of Credit

A “verified unit of credit” or “verified credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which a student earns a standard unit of credit and completes one of the following:

1. Achieves a passing score on a corresponding end-of-course SOL test.
2. Achieves a passing score on an additional test, as defined in 8 VAC 20-131-5, as a part of the Virginia Assessment Program.
3. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit when the student has not passed a corresponding SOL test.
4. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit in history and social science by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.
5. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit for English (writing) by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.

Students may also earn verified credits by taking alternative tests to the SOL assessment. Such tests may only be those approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and the student may earn verified credits only by achieving that score established by the Board of Education.

### Virginia Assessment Program

The “Virginia Assessment Program” is a system used to evaluate student achievement that includes SOL tests and additional tests that may be approved from time to time by the Board of Education.

Adopted: April 8, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-5.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-51.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015).

Cross Refs.:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit
	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments

INSTRUCTION

Student Evaluation and Grading/Class Rank

A. Grading

**TAZEWELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING SYSTEM – GRADES 1-12**

Elementary, Middle, and High Schools will use the following grading system for all classes except Advanced Placement courses and courses that have been designated to have an add-on value of 0.5.

<b>*Grade</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>*Numeric Average</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>
<b>A</b>	Excellent	93-100	4.00
<b>B</b>	Very Good	85-92	3.00
<b>C</b>	Satisfactory	77-84	2.00
<b>D</b>	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	70-76	1.00
<b>F</b>	Failure	Below 70	0.00
<b>I</b>	Incomplete	--	--

\* Relationship between the alpha grade and its numeric equivalent for grades 1-12. Written progress reports and parental conferences shall be submitted for formal grades at the kindergarten level.

**GRADING SCALE FOR ALTERNATIVE COURSES**

The grading scale for courses taken through Virtual Virginia Advanced Placement courses and Advanced Placement courses offered by TCPS and certified in-school Advanced Placement instructors will be as follows for the students of Tazewell County Public Schools who participate:

- A = 93-100**
- B = 85-92**
- C = 77-84**
- D = 70-76**
- F = Below 70**

The grading scale for courses taken through A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Community College dual credit and dual enrollment courses, Southwest Virginia Training and Education Network (Elite Learning) asynchronous courses, and Special Programs will be as follows for the students of Tazewell County Public Schools who participate:

- A = 90-100**
- B = 80-89**
- C = 70-79**
- D = 60-69**
- F = Below 60**

**B. GPA/Rank in Class Guidelines**

1. Virginia Board of Education regulations require that courses taken below the ninth grade level that are identified as ninth grade or above, plus all other courses classified as ninth through twelfth grade, be included in determination of the required grade point average for the Board of Education seal and/or the Governor's seal. Courses taken during the second semester of the senior year shall be included.
2. All enrolled students will be tentatively ranked at the end of the first semester of the senior year. Final rank in class will be determined at the end of the second semester of the senior year.

**Grading System for Weighted Grades – Students Who Entered the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Grade Prior to the 2017-2018 school-year**

After the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA) based on a 4.0 scale, an assigned weight for weighted courses is added to the GPA. The weight of .036 is added to each weighted course completed with a grade of “C” or higher.

GRADE	DESCRIPTOR	Numeric Constant Values for Letter Grades	Weighted Course Add-on
A	Excellent	4.00	0.036
B	Very Good	3.00	0.036
C	Satisfactory	2.00	0.036
D	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	1.00	--
F	Failure	0.00	--
I	Incomplete		

Course availability at each high school is based upon student interest and request. All AP courses are not taught at all high schools. Students may take courses through Virtual Virginia course offerings. Effective with the class of 2010, all state approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses shall be weighted for computing a student’s grade point average.

**Grading System for Weighted Grades – Students Who Entered the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Grade in the 2017-2018 school-year**

3. All state approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses shall be weighted for computing a student’s grade point average. Grade equivalents for AP courses shall be as follows:

- A = 5.0
- B = 4.0
- C = 3.0
- D = 2.0
- F = 1.0

4. Grade equivalents for courses taken from the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Education Training Network, Virginia Virtual, Southwest Virginia Community College Dual Enrollment, and the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center will be calculated using a .5 add-on as follows:

A = 4.5  
 B = 3.5  
 C = 2.5  
 D = 1.5  
 F = 0.5

Weighted grade courses are courses in which the scope and sequence of the content is more rigorous and require significantly more work as compared to regular classes. Therefore, students who meet the requirements for these courses will be graded as follows:

After the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, an assigned numeric value for weighted courses is added to the GPA:

Standard: A = 4.0

Advanced Placement: A = 5.0

Dual Enrollment or Governor’s School: A = 4.5

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTOR</b>	<b>Numeric Constant Values for Advanced Placement Courses</b>	<b>Numeric Constant Values for A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Education Training Network, Virginia Virtual, Southwest Virginia Community College Dual Enrollment, and the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center</b>
<b>A</b>	Excellent	5.00	4.5
<b>B</b>	Very Good	4.00	3.5
<b>C</b>	Satisfactory	3.00	2.5
<b>D</b>	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	2.00	1.5
<b>F</b>	Failure	--	--
<b>I</b>	Incomplete	--	--

Course availability at each high school is based upon student interest and request. All Advanced Placement (AP) courses are not taught at all high schools. Students may take AP courses through the Virginia Virtual online program or other Tazewell County School Board accepted programs from which AP classes are offered.

Special guidelines for GPA and class rank are found in IKF-R of the Tazewell County Policy Manual.

5. Only students completing all requirements at the end of the second semester for graduation will be eligible for the academic honors of Valedictorian or Salutatorian. To be eligible as Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must have completed the last four (4) consecutive semesters in Tazewell County Public Schools.
6. Students who complete graduation requirements in summer school will retain their previously determined class rank.
7. Rank in class shall be determined by assigning a constant numerical value to the letter.

Standard Courses – No Add-on	.5 Add-on	Advanced Placement Courses
A = 4.0	A = 4.5	A = 5.0
B = 3.0	B = 3.5	B = 4.0
C = 2.0	C = 2.5	C = 3.0
D = 1.0	D = 1.5	D = 2.0
F = 0.0	F = 0.5	F = 1.0

Grade Average Calculation

Student	Standard Courses	Add-on Courses	AP Courses	Total
Bob	22 As	3 As	5 As	30 As
	22 X 4.0 = 88.0	3 X 4.5 = 13.5	5 X 5.0 = 25.0	126.5

Example Grade Point Calculation:

$$88.0 + 13.5 + 25.0 = 126.5$$

Number of classes taken equals 30

$$126.5 \div 30 = 4.21667$$

Rounded = 4.22

4.217 = Official GPA

8. Only final grades for each course attempted shall be used in the computation of the final grade point average.
9. Courses repeated will be recorded on the transcript in compliance with the *Regulations Governing Secondary Transcripts, Standards for Accrediting Virginia Public Schools, and Guidelines for the Management of the Student's Scholastic Record in Virginia Public Schools.*
10. If a combination of circumstances should produce a ranking which the school principal deems to be unfair, he/she may act to correct the injustice, with School Board approval. Such action would rarely be necessary.

11. In computation of rank in class, all final ranks shall be calculated at four decimal places and rounded to the nearest three decimal places. (See example below.) Rank, except for ties, will reflect the number of students at and above any given rank.

Student	GPA	GPA	Rank in Class
A	3.8624	3.862	1
B	3.8452	3.845	2
C	3.8454	3.845	2
D	3.8067	3.807	4
E	3.8068	3.807	4
F	3.7732	3.773	6

12. Students with a GPA of 3.5 and above will be awarded academic letters and bars. The GPA will be computed annually for the purpose of awarding academic letters and bars.
13. "Valedictorian" and "salutatorian" designations for honoring graduates will continue to be used and will be supplemented by a system which recognizes students who achieve grade point averages within the following ranges:

Summa Cum Laude	GPA Greater than 4.000
Magna Cum Laude	GPA of 3.750 up to and including 4.000
Cum Laude	GPA of 3.500 up to and including 3.749

14. The final designation of honor graduates shall be presented to the Division Superintendent for review.

Approved by School Board: January 12, 1987  
 Amended by School Board: September 10, 1990  
 Amended by School Board: September 13, 1993  
 Amended by School Board: January 13, 1997  
 Amended by School Board: December 14, 1998  
 Amended by School Board: August 14, 2000  
 Amended by School Board: August 13, 2001  
 Amended by School Board: December 3, 2001  
 Amended by School Board: September 13, 2004  
 Amended by School Board: May 8, 2006  
 Amended by School Board: May 8, 2017  
 Amended by School Board: April 8, 2019



## INSTRUCTION

Student Evaluation and Grading/Class RankA. Student Evaluation and Grading

The classroom teacher shall be responsible for the grading or evaluation of his/her student's achievements in class. The respective school principal shall have the prerogative of reviewing grades assigned by teachers and to resolve questionable matters. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing a uniform procedure for evaluation student progress.

All students taking courses for high school credit must take semester and final exams. The only exception is for seniors having at least a "B" average and missing no more than seven (7) days per semester. Seniors qualifying for the exception may be exempt from the final exam(s).

Students who pass the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course (EOC) tests may substitute their SOL score for the final exam(s) based on the following criteria:

Students who pass the EOC test with a pass proficient score (400-499) will receive a 90 for the final exam in the course.

Students who pass the EOC test with a pass advanced score (500-600) will receive a 100 for the final exam in the course.

Students who pass the State-approved credential test associated with their CTE class and earn that credential will receive a 90 for the final exam in the course.

If there is more than one credential test for the CTE class, any student that passes 50% or more of those credential tests will receive a 100 for the final exam in the course.

The length of exams will be two hours and the exam will count as 1/5 of the semester average. For seniors who are exempt from the final exam, each six weeks grade during second semester will count 1/3 of the semester average. Student attendance is required for all classes during examination periods. Final exams will be given according to the established examination schedule.

B. Class Rank

All enrolled students will be tentatively ranked at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

Final rank in class will be determined at the end of the second semester of the senior year.

Approved by School Board: August 13, 2001  
Amended by School Board: May 29, 2002  
Amended by School Board: March 8, 2004  
Amended by School Board: May 8, 2017  
Amended by School Board: June 11, 2018

## INSTRUCTION

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS****Learning Goals**

Each school shall provide learning goals to be achieved by students at successive levels of development and shall continually assess the progress of each student in relation to these goals and the goals of education in Virginia as promulgated by the Board of Education.

Prior to graduation, students must be provided with opportunities which will ensure that they demonstrate readiness in at least one of the following:

- College readiness – earn high school credit for a dual enrollment course or successfully complete and Advanced Placement (AP) course.
- Earn an Industry Certification.
- Complete a community service project.

All students are encouraged to complete a focused program of studies offered by Tazewell County Public Schools. Some students may elect to complete an academic program of studies, while others may choose to complete an academic and career and technical program of studies. The programs of study presented in this document meet the Virginia Department of Education requirements for graduation. Students have the opportunity and are encouraged to exceed minimum graduation requirements.

**Standard and Verified Units of Credit**

Students in middle and secondary schools will take all applicable SOL End-of Course tests. Students enrolled as freshmen before July 1, 2018, sophomores before July 1, 2019, juniors before July 1, 2020, and seniors before July 1, 2021 are required to earn Standard Credits and Verified Units of Credit as stipulated by the Virginia Board of Education. Students who achieve a passing score on an SOL End-of-Course test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-110. Middle and secondary schools may consider SOL End-of Course test scores in determining a student's final course grade.

To achieve a standard unit of credit for graduation, a student must be in regular attendance successfully complete the course requirements as stipulated in Tazewell County School Board (TCSB) Policy IGBI, IGBI-R, IKF, IKF-R, and IKFD.

To achieve a verified unit of credit for graduation, a student must be in regular attendance successfully complete the course requirements as stipulated in TCSB Policy IGBI, IGBI-R, IKF, IKF-R, and IKFD, and, if applicable, pass the SOL End-of-Course test.

In accordance with the Virginia Standards of Quality, a student may earn a verified unit of credit for any elective course when core academic SOL course content has been integrated into the course content and the student passes the related SOL End-of-Course test. Course content and test combinations must be approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

**Locally Awarded Verified Credits**

Effective May 9, 2018, all students are eligible to be considered for locally-awarded verified credits in English, mathematics, science, and history/social science in accordance with the Board of Education's regulations and guidance. The number of locally-awarded verified credits and the diplomas to which they may be applied are different for students that entered the ninth grade prior to the 2018-2019 school year, and for those that enter in 2018-2019 and thereafter, as explained in this memorandum.

For students that entered the **ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-2019** school year, locally-awarded verified credits were previously available to students only for science and history/social science. Those students may now be awarded a total of **three locally-awarded verified credits in English, mathematics, science, and history/social science**. These changes were adopted by the Board of Education and approved by Governor Northam through emergency changes to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (Standards of Accreditation or SOA) and the Board's *Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits*.

**First-time ninth graders beginning with the 2018-2019** school year will be able to earn no more than **one locally awarded verified credit in English, mathematics, science, and history/social science**. These changes were adopted by the Board of Education through the comprehensive revisions to the SOA that will become effective in the 2018-2019 school year.

The criteria for locally-awarded verified credit is summarized below:

- To qualify for locally-awarded verified credits, a student must:
  - Pass the high school course;
  - Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice; and
  - Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level (see *Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits* for details).
- Students with credit accommodations are not subject to the limit on the number of locally-awarded verified credits.
- Local school boards must have policies governing procedures used to award locally-awarded verified credit, including the use of a review panel to consider evidence of the student's achievement.
- The local review panel (teacher, principal, and director of secondary or middle) or individuals or groups appointed at the discretion of the School Board will review information which provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. A panel shall have discretion in determining the information to be considered and may include, but not limited to, results of class room assessments, division-wide exams, course grades, and additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essays or written questions) as deemed appropriate.
- Based on the evidence reviewed, the local review panel may (a) award the verified credit, (b) deny the verified credit, (c) suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting, or (d) make additional academic assignments as deemed appropriate prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

### **Expedited retakes and end of course tests administered to meet Federal accountability requirements only**

*The board shall provide the same criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any SOL test, with the exception of the writing SOL tests, to each student regardless of grade level or course.*

*Each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction. The division superintendent shall certify to the Department of Education that the division's policy for dropping courses ensures that students' course schedules are not changed to avoid end-of-course SOL tests. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test shall be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course in accordance with the provisions of [8VAC20-131-110](#). Students may earn verified units of credit in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for*

*graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade. However, no student who has failed an end-of-course SOL test but passed the related course shall be prevented from taking any other course in a content area and from taking the applicable end-of-course SOL test. The board may approve additional tests to verify student achievement in accordance with guidelines adopted for verified units of credit described in [8VAC20-131-110](#).*

**Guidance:**

The following criteria shall be used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of 1) an SOL test for grades 3-8 or 2) an end-of-course SOL test administered to meet federal accountability requirements only.

The student must have a passing grade in the class associated with the test and one of the following:

- The student failed the test by a narrow margin as defined as a scaled score of 375-399 or
- The student failed the test with a scaled score below 375 and
  - had a documented extenuating circumstance that prevented him/her from performing at the expected level and/or
  - there was a significant discrepancy between the student's SOL test score and his/her typical academic performance

**Extenuating Circumstance:**

An extenuating circumstance is defined as an unusual and uncontrollable event that negatively impacted a student's test performance. Examples of extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the recent death of a family member, friend, or pet; a traumatic home situation, or other significant personal distress or disruption that does not qualify for irregularity retesting. Generally, school staff identify such situations before the student begins testing so that the testing session may be rescheduled. However, there are incidences where the circumstances affecting the student are not known until after testing has begun.

**Significant Achievement Discrepancy:**

Evidence that the SOL test score is significantly lower than expected based on the student's typical level of achievement may be used to justify retesting. Data used to establish the student's typical performance may include previous SOL test data in the same content area or evidence of the student's current academic achievement.

**Required Documentation:**

School divisions will maintain documentation of the unusual circumstances experienced for each student retested under the extenuating circumstances provision and evidence of the student's typical academic achievement for those retesting under the significant achievement discrepancy provision. Documentation will be subject to periodic review by Department staff on behalf of the Board. Information gathered during the reviews will be used to provide technical assistance to school divisions and may be shared in summary form with the Board.

**Parental Permission:**

Prior to any expedited retake for students who have failed an SOL test for grades 3-8, school divisions shall obtain and thereafter maintain documentation annually of affirmative parental consent and permission for their child to take an expedited retake. Parents of eligible students shall be notified (a) of the opportunity to retake the test(s); (b) that the decision not to retake any or all of the test(s) will not impact their child's grade or academic record; and (c) of the opt-in requirement.

## **Expedited Retakes for End-of-Course Tests Needed for Verified Credits**

### ***8VAC20-131-110. Standard and verified units of credit.***

*With such funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly board shall provide opportunities for students who meet criteria adopted by the board to have an expedited retake of a SOL test to earn verified credit.*

#### **Guidance:**

The following criteria shall be used in determining the eligibility of students for an expedited retake of an end-of-course test for verified credit.

The student must need the test for verified credit, have a passing grade in the course associated with the test, and have met one of the following:

- Failed the test by a narrow margin defined as a scaled score of 375-399, or
- Failed the test by any margin and had extenuating circumstances that would warrant retesting

Extenuating circumstances will be defined by the local school division superintendent but must be restricted to situations that specifically affect the student who is being retested. Extenuating circumstances may include the need to pass the test to graduate.

Substitute tests approved for awarding verified credit

As permitted by the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools (8VAC20-131-110), the Virginia Board of Education has approved various “substitute” tests and set the minimum score that must be achieved for the purpose of awarding verified credit to students. The tests listed in this document are approved by the Virginia Board of Education as substitute tests, and verified credit can be awarded when the student achieves at least the minimum score required for a Pass/Proficient rating as shown for each test.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-131-110>

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute\\_tests/subtests-verified-credit.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/subtests-verified-credit.pdf)

#### **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-2019 academic year:**

- No more than three locally-awarded verified credits may be awarded.
- Locally-awarded verified credits cannot be applied toward an Advanced Studies diploma.
- Students that are no longer in school who would now be eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit in English or mathematics may now earn a locally-awarded verified credit, provided that all criteria is met.

#### **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-2019 academic year and beyond:**

- No more than one locally-awarded verified credit may be awarded.
- Locally-awarded verified credits can be applied toward either a Standard or an Advanced Studies diploma.

## **AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS**

The Tazewell County School Board awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education and meet such other requirements as are prescribed by the Tazewell County School Board (TCSB) and approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

### **STANDARD DIPLOMA: Minimum Course & Credit Requirements**

To graduate with a Standard Diploma, a student must earn at least 22 standard units of credit by passing required courses and electives and earn at least six verified credits (enrolled in high school 2014-2015) and five verified credits (enrolled in high school 2017-2018) by passing Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course Tests or other assessments approved by the TCSB and Virginia Board of Education.

The “Profile of a Graduate” beginning with the 2018-2019 school-year requires students seeking a Standard Diploma to complete the following:

- Advanced Placement, Honors, or Career and Technical Education Credential - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
- Virtual Course - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.
- Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) - Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, CPR, and the use of AED, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
- \*Demonstration of the five Cs - Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship in accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate approved by the board.

*\*Not required for students who entered the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade for the first time 2011-2012 through 2017-2018*

**Credit Requirements for Graduating with a Standard Diploma.**

<b>Enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> 2013-2014 through 2017-2018</b>			<b>Enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning 2018-2019</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>*Verified Credits Required</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>*Verified Credits Required</b>
English	4	2	English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1	Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2,6</sup>	3	1	Science <sup>2,6</sup>	3	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3,6</sup>	3	1	History and Social Sciences <sup>3,6</sup>	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2		Health and Physical Education	2	
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education <sup>7</sup>	2		Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education <sup>7</sup>	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1		Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives <sup>4</sup>	4		Electives <sup>4</sup>	4	
Student Selected Test <sup>5</sup>		1	-----	-----	-----
Career and Technical Education <sup>8</sup>			Career and Technical Education <sup>8</sup>		
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*A verified credit is awarded when a course and the corresponding Standards of Learning End-of-Course test are passed.*

<sup>1</sup>Include at least two course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra and Geometry. The TCSB may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>2</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least two different science disciplines: Earth Science, Ecology, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. The TCSB may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>3</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include World Geography, World, World History II, United States (U.S) and Virginia History, and U.S. and Virginia Government. The TCSB may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup>Beginning with the graduating class of 2003, courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality. Beginning with the class of 2021, all students must either earn a career and technical education credential or complete an Advanced Placement, or honors course to graduate.

<sup>5</sup>A student may utilize additional tests for earning a verified credit in computer science, technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education in 8 VAC 20-131-110.B

<sup>6</sup>Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential or license for (1) the student selected verified credit and (2) either a science or history and social science verified credit when the certification, license or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.

<sup>7</sup>For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 and beyond: Pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:4, Code of Virginia, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.

<sup>8</sup>Students shall earn a career and technical education credential approved by the Board of Education, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.

<sup>9</sup>Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online. Beginning with first-time ninth-grade students in the 2016-2017 school year, students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in [8VAC20-131-420 B](#).

## Credit Requirements for Graduating with an Advanced Studies Diploma

To graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma, a student must earn at least 26 standard units of credit by passing required courses and electives and earn at least nine verified credits (enrolled in high school 2014-2015) and five verified credits (enrolled in high school 2018-2019) by passing Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course Tests or other assessments approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

The “Profile of a Graduate” beginning with the 2018-2019 school-year requires students seeking an Advanced Studies Diploma to complete the following:

- Advanced Placement, Honors, or Career and Technical Education Credential - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
- Virtual Course - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.
- Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) - Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, CPR, and the use of AED, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
- \*Demonstration of the five Cs - Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship in accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate approved by the board.

*\*Not required for students who entered the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade for the first time 2011-2012 through 2017-2018*

The school counselor can advise on available courses to fulfill the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma.

Information located at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/advanced\\_studies.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/advanced_studies.shtml)



### Credit Requirements for Graduating with an Advanced Studies Diploma

<b>Enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> 2013-2014 through 2017-2018</b>			<b>Enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning 2018-2019</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>*Verified Credits Required</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>*Verified Credits Required</b>
English	4	2	English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	4	2	Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	4	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2</sup>	4	2	Science <sup>2</sup>	4	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	4	2	History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	4	1
World Language <sup>4</sup>	3		World Language <sup>4</sup>	3	
Health and Physical Education	2		Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education <sup>5</sup>	1		Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education <sup>5</sup>	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1		Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3		Electives	3	
Student Selected Test <sup>6</sup>		1	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*A verified credit is awarded when a course and the corresponding Standards of Learning End-of-Course test are passed.*

<sup>1</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.

<sup>2</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.

<sup>3</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

<sup>5</sup>Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical education course credit.

<sup>6</sup>A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the board in [8VAC20-131-110](#).

<sup>7</sup>Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course, or may be a course required to earn this diploma that is offered online.

Beginning with first-time ninth-grade students in the 2016–2017 school year, students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in [8VAC20-131-420 B](#).

## Applied Studies Diploma

### Criteria for Earning the Applied Studies Diploma

#### **The \*Applied Studies Diploma is available to all students with an Individualized Education Program.**

The Code of Virginia (8VAC20-131-50 D) states that, “In accordance with the requirements of the Standards of Quality, students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded Applied Studies Diplomas.” This diploma is available to all students with an IEP. Students with an IEP who pursue a Standard Diploma but do not meet the criteria are still eligible to earn the Applied Studies Diploma.

Students may work on skills outlined in the \*\*Curriculum Map while pursuing a standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. The skills outlined may be supplemental to the academic standards and goals set for the student and may contribute to the development of the IEP. A decision to work toward the Applied Studies Diploma is a significant decision that will have an impact on the remainder of the student’s high school experience as well as their postsecondary life. If the IEP team decides that the student will stop pursuing a standard diploma, a further analysis of the student’s skills should be conducted to facilitate a more personalized and comprehensive plan. A decision to work toward the Applied Studies Diploma is essentially choosing to stop pursuing a Standard Diploma. Before making this very important decision, several factors should influence and guide the team when making this decision.

1. **Present Level of Performance** – Beyond the student’s academic performance, IEP teams should base decisions on the student’s performance on goals outlined within the curriculum map.
2. **Postsecondary Goals** – The student’s postsecondary goals will provide additional guidance to the IEP to facilitate the development of meaningful goals. Additionally, the student’s postsecondary goals may require the student to attend college. This postsecondary goal becomes more likely with a standard or advanced studies diploma.
3. **Learning Trajectory and Remaining Time in School** – Students require different levels of support and take varied amounts of time to master skills. Previous educational records can provide information regarding the student’s skill acquisition rate. The IEP teams should use that information to make decisions regarding the student’s course of study and school experiences.
4. **Level of External Support** – If the student requires a degree of external support in the form of another individual to assist with completing tasks or activities, it is critical to consider the development and use of alternative forms of support. Visual supports and assistive technology are critical in helping students develop independence. Specialized instruction may be required to teach the student to utilize supports when needed.

\*[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/applied\\_studies/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/applied_studies/index.shtml)

\*\*[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/applied\\_studies/applied-studies-curriculum-map.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/applied_studies/applied-studies-curriculum-map.pdf)

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES**  
**2018-2019**

**Middle School Standard Verified Credit**

Successful completion of eighth grade subjects count toward promotion from the 8th grade to the 9th grade. **However, 8th grade students may earn units of credit for courses identified as high school credit subjects. Credit earned in these courses will be counted toward the total number of credits needed for graduation.** Students will receive one credit for completing Algebra I, Band (sixth, seventh, and eighth grade sequence), Chorus (sixth, seventh, and eighth grade sequence), Art I, Independent Living, Keyboarding Applications, Spanish 1, Virginia Virtual Latin I, and Virginia Virtual French 1.

The following email is in response to school division questions regarding middle school students and verified credits as related to the 2017 Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA) that take effect in fall 2018. Under the 2017 SOA, middle school students who are enrolled in course work with an associated end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) test will continue to have the opportunity to accrue both standard and verified credits toward their high school graduation requirements. Specifically, from the 2017 SOA (8VAC20-131-51):

When students below the ninth grade successfully complete courses offered for credit in grades 9 through 12, credit shall be counted toward meeting the standard units required for graduation provided the courses are equivalent in content and academic rigor as those courses offered at the secondary level. To earn a verified unit of credit for these courses, students must meet the requirements of 8VAC20-131-110.

For example, a middle school student who successfully completes Algebra I in the 8th grade and passes the Algebra I end-of-course SOL test would accrue a standard credit and a verified credit in mathematics. Upon entering high school as a 9th grader, this student will have earned the necessary verified credit in mathematics to meet graduation requirements.

The 2017 SOA (8VAC20-131-30) also states:

Students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements.

In the example of the middle school student described above, the student earned the necessary verified credit in mathematics to meet graduation requirements while enrolled in middle school; however, to meet federal accountability requirements, the student must be assessed in mathematics once in high school. As a result, in this example, the student would be administered the Geometry end-of-course SOL test upon completion of the Geometry course in high school.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact student assessment staff at [student\\_assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

Course	Course Code	High School Credit
<b>Math 6</b>	3110	No
<b>Math 7</b>	3111	No
<b>Math 8</b> (not Pre-Algebra 8) Pre-Algebra code is no longer available.	3112	No
<b>**Algebra I</b> Full year w/sem. and end of year exam <b>See note in the last column.</b>	3130	<b>Yes</b>  **NOTE: Algebra I taken at the Middle School level <i>will</i> count as a high school verified credit but <i>will not</i> count in the high school's accountability assessment, therefore students will still need to take an EOC math SOL test in high school.
<b>Virginia Virtual-Algebra II</b> Full year with a semester and end of year exam.	3135	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Band 6</b>	9230	• See note below
<b>Band 7</b>	9231	• See note below
<b>Band 8</b> Full year with semester and end of year exams.  **NOTE: The final grade in Band 8 will be the grade recorded on the high school transcript. Semester and end of year exams will be given in Band 8 <b>only</b> .	9229	<b>YES</b>  *If a student participates in band a full year in 6, 7, and 8.
<b>Chorus--- Grade 6</b>	9269	• See note below
<b>Chorus--- Grade 7</b>	9270	• See note below
<b>Chorus ---Grade 8</b> Full year w/sem. and end of year exams.  **NOTE: The final grade in Chorus 8 will be the grade recorded on the high school transcript. Semester and end of year exams will be given in Chorus 8 <b>only</b> .	..	<b>YES</b>  *If a student participates in chorus a full year in 6, 7, and 8.

*(continues)*

**Middle and High School Credit Courses (continued)**

<b>Independent Living</b> Full year with semester and end of year exams.	8219	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Art—Grade 6</b>	9103	No
<b>Art—Grade 7</b>	9105	No
<b>Art—Grade 8</b>	9115	No
<b>Art I</b> Full year w/sem. and end of year exams.	9120	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Keyboarding Applications</b> Full year w/sem. and end of year exams. Effective with the 2018-2019 school year, the name of this course is <b>Digital Applications.</b>	6152	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Keyboarding Applications</b> (18 weeks /semester)	6153	No
<b>Keyboarding – Middle</b>	6150	No
<b>Reading Grade 6</b>	1106	No
<b>Reading Grade 7</b>	1107	No
<b>English 8</b>	1120	No
<b>Spanish 1—Regular Course</b> Full year with semester and end of year exams.	5510	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Virginia Virtual Latin 1—Regular Course</b> Full year with semester and end of year exams.	5310	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Virginia Virtual French 1—Regular Course</b> Full year with semester and end of year exams.	5110	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Science 6</b>	4105	No
<b>Life Science</b>	4115	No
<b>Physical Science</b>	4125	No
<b>US History to (1865) 1877</b>	2353	No
<b>US (1865) 1877 to Present</b>	2354	No
<b>Civics and Economics</b>	2357	No
<b>Health and PE –Grade 6</b>	7111	No
<b>Health and PE—Grade 7</b>	7121	No
<b>Health and PE—Grade 8</b>	7210	No
<b>Adaptive P.E.</b>	91610000	No

(continues)

**Middle and High School Credit Courses (continued)**

<b>Technology Education 7</b>	870	No
<b>Career Interpretation—Phase II</b>	9074	No
<b>Career Investigation—Phase I (36 weeks)</b> <b>Replaces Career Application Phase III (36 weeks)</b>	9070	No
<b>Family and Consumer Sciences— Exp. II (18 weeks)</b>	8263	No
<b>SOL Reading 6</b>	650000	No
<b>SOL Reading 7</b>	750000	No
<b>SOL Reading 8</b>	850000	No
<b>SOL Math 6</b>	3670000	No
<b>SOL Math 7</b>	3770000	
<b>SOL Math 8</b>	3870000	No
<b>SOL Remediation Study Skills is no longer available.</b>	128	No
<b>Exploratory 6</b>	9610000	No
<b>Exploratory 7</b>	82060000	No
<b>Resource 6 (SPED)</b>	2610000	No
<b>Resource 7 (SPED)</b>	2710000	No
<b>Resource 8 (SPED)</b>	2810000	No

**Note:** Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade students (2017-2018 school year) and each year thereafter will follow the guidelines for chorus and band as stated above. Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade students (2017-2018) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade students (2018-2019) will be grandfathered in and follow current procedures/guidelines.

**Transfer Students**

Students transferring to a TCPS high school will be required to meet all requirements for a diploma as outlined by the Virginia Board of Education and the TCSB. Each student's prior record will be evaluated to determine the number and content of additional credits required for graduation. A student transferring from a state where a sequence of courses is different from Virginia's requirements shall be placed at a level best reflecting their earned units of credit, regulations for promotions and graduation requirements as established by the School Board.

**First-time Transfers to a Virginia Public School**

Graduation requirements – in compliance with 8VAC 20-131-60 – for a student transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time in grades 9-12, depends on the grade the student is transferring into and when in the school year the student is transferring.

A student is considered to have transferred at the **beginning** of the school year if 20 or fewer hours of instruction have been completed. A student is considered to have transferred **during** the school year if more than 20 hours of instruction has been completed.

**Standard Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (Transferring Student)**

Beginning = First 20 hours of instruction

During = After the first 20 hours of instruction

<b>Students transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time</b>			
<b>During 9th Grade OR Beginning of 10th Grade:</b>	<b>Must Earn</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond</b>
<b>6 Verified Credits:</b>			
	English	2	2
	Mathematics		1
	Science		1
	History & Social Science		1
	Student Selected	4	1
<b>During 10th Grade OR Beginning of 11th Grade:</b>	<b>Must Earn</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond</b>
<b>4 Verified Credits:</b>			
	English	2	1
	Mathematics		1
	Science		1
	History & Social Science		1
	Student Selected	2	
<b>During 11th Grade OR Beginning of 12th Grade:</b>			
<b>2 Verified Credits:</b>			
	English	1	1
	Student Selected	1	1
<b>During 12th Grade:</b>	Students should be given every opportunity to earn a diploma; if this is not possible, the school division should arrange to have the previous school award the diploma; or seek a waiver of the verified credit requirement from VDOE.		

- Six verified credits required for a student transferring during the 9th grade or at the beginning of the 10th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Science – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- Four verified credits for a student transferring during the 10th grade or at the beginning of the 11th grade
  - English – 1
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Studies – 1

- Two verified credits for a student transferring during the 11th grade or at the beginning of the 12th grade
  - English – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- For a student transferring during the 12th grade, every opportunity should be given to earn a diploma; if this is not possible the local school division should seek to have the previous school award the diploma or request from VDOE a waiver of the verified credit requirement.

Standard Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-60.G.1 and H)

C. Requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma (Transition Student)

**Advanced Studies Diploma Verified Credit Requirements Transferring Student**

Beginning = First 20 hours of instruction

During = After the first 20 hours of instruction

<b>Students transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time</b>		
<b>During 9th Grade OR Beginning of 10th Grade:</b>	<b>Must Earn</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2000-01 and beyond</b>
9 Verified Credits:		
	English	2
	Mathematics	2
	Science	2
	History & Social Science	2
	Student Selected	1
<b>During 10th Grade OR Beginning of 11th Grade:</b>	<b>Must Earn</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2000-01 and beyond</b>
6 Verified Credits:		
	English	2
	Mathematics	1
	Science	1
	History & Social Science	1
	Student Selected	1
<b>During 11th Grade OR Beginning of 12th Grade:</b>	<b>Must Earn</b>	<b>Ninth Graders in 2000-01 and beyond</b>
4 Verified Credits:		
	English	1
	Student Selected	3
<b>During 12th Grade:</b>	Students should be given every opportunity to earn a diploma; if this is not possible, the school division should arrange to have the previous school award the diploma; or seek a waiver of the verified credit requirement from VDOE.	



- Nine verified credits required for a student transferring during the 9th grade or at the beginning of the 10th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 2
  - Science – 2
  - History & Social Science – 2
  - Student Selected – 1
- Six verified credits for a student transferring during the 10th grade or at the beginning of the 11th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Studies – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- Four verified credits for a student transferring during the 11th grade or at the beginning of the 12th grade
  - English – 1
  - Student Selected – 3
- For a student transferring during the 12th grade, every opportunity should be given to earn a diploma; if this is not possible the local school division should seek to have the previous school award the diploma or request from VDOE a waiver of the verified credit requirement.

### Diploma Seals and Recognitions

When students meet the appropriate criteria for exceptional performance, as determined by the Tazewell County School Board, diploma seals, bars, letters, monetary awards, and special recognitions are awarded accordingly. Categories under consideration generally include character, citizenship, community service, academic performance, talent and skills in the arts, advancement in career and technical education, and exceptional displays of technology skills.

1. Students who complete the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma with an average grade of “B” or better, and successfully complete college level coursework that will earn the student at least nine transferable college credits in Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment will receive the **Governor’s Seal**.
2. Students who complete the requirements for a Standard Diploma with an average grade of “A” will receive a **Board of Education Seal**.
3. The **Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Seal** will be awarded to students who earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization. Students are required to maintain a “B” average or higher in course work, **or** pass an examination in a career and technical education concentration, **or** specialization that confers a certification from a recognized industry, trade, **or** professional association, **or** acquire a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
4. The **Board of Education’s Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology** will be awarded to students who entered high school prior to 2018-2019 and who have earned either a Standard Diploma or Advanced Studies Diploma and satisfy all of the mathematics requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma that include four units of credit in Algebra II, two verified units of credit with a “B” average or better, and either pass an examination in a career and technical education field that confers certification from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association, acquire a professional license in a career and technical education

field from the Commonwealth of Virginia, or pass an examination approved by the Board that confers college-level credit in a technology or computer science area.

5. The ***Board of Education's STEM Seal*** will be awarded to students who are graduating in the class of 2019 and beyond and who earn either a Standard Diploma or Advanced Studies Diploma and satisfy all of the mathematics requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma with a "B" average or better in all course work, successfully complete a 50 hour or more work-based learning opportunity in a STEM area, and satisfy all requirements for a Career and Technical Education concentration. A concentration is a coherent sequence of two or more state-approved courses as identified in the course listing within the CTE Administrative Planning Guide. Eligible students must pass one of the following -- a Board of Education CTE STEM-H credential examination or an examination approved by the Board that confers a college-level credit in a STEM field. The STEM Seal will replace the *Board of Education's Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology*.
6. The ***Board of Education's Seal of Excellence in Civics*** will be awarded to students who satisfy each of the following four criteria:
  1. *Earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma.*
  2. *Complete Virginia and United States History and Virginia and United States Government courses with a grade of "B" or higher.*
  3. *Complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities. Activities include:*
    - *Volunteer for a charitable or religious organization that provides services to the poor, sick, or less fortunate.*
    - *Participate in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or similar youth organizations.*
    - *Participate in JROTC.*
    - *Participate in political campaigns or government internships, or Boys State, Girls State, or Model General Assembly.*
    - *Participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity that has some civics focus. (Any student who enlists in the United States military prior to graduation will be deemed to have met the community service requirement).*
  4. *Have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions.*

### **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP)**

All students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) will participate in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing program. A school-based committee will convene and make determinations regarding the participation level of LEP students. LEP students who have attended school in the United States for less than 12 months may receive a one-time exemption for the SOL Reading test in grades 3-8. This guideline also applies to students arriving from Puerto Rico. No exemption is available for End-of-Course Reading. LEP students in grades 3-8 may exercise a one-time exemption for the Virginia Studies and Economics SOL test. LEP students may Not be exempted for the SOL Mathematics tests. LEP students may Not be exempted from the SOL Science tests. LEP students may exercise a one-time exemption from the Grade 8 SOL Writing test. No exemption is available for the End-of-Course Writing test. The reasons for exemptions and the ramification(s) of exemptions should be documented in the student's LEP Student Assessment Participation Plan and conveyed to the LEP student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

### **SPECIAL DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES**

- In accordance with the requirements of the Standards of Quality (SOQ), students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded **Special Diplomas**.
- In accordance with the requirements of the SOQ, students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by the TCSB and do not qualify for diplomas shall be awarded **Certificates of Program Completion**.
- In accordance with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law and 8 VAC 20-360-10, et. Seq., *Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates (GED)*, students who do not qualify for diplomas may earn a **High School Equivalency Credential**.
- At a student's request, the local school board shall communicate or otherwise make known to institutions of higher education, potential employers, or other applicable third parties, in a manner that the local school board deems appropriate, that a student has attained the state's academic expectations by earning a Virginia diploma and that the value of such a diploma is not affected in any way by the accreditation status of the student's school.

#### **Verified Credit and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Field**

Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field may use the results as a **verified credit**. The examination and competency must also result in the confirmation of a certification, occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, a trade, professional association, or acquire a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The certification, competency credential, or license will substitute for a science, history, or social science verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.

#### **The Path to Industry Certification: High School Industry Credentialing**

A credential is defined as a:

- Complete industry certification program, e.g., Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), W!SE Financial Literacy Certification.
- Pathway examination that leads to a completed industry certification, e.g., automotive technician examinations from ASE.
- State-issued professional license, e.g., Cosmetology.
- Occupational competency examination, e.g., skill assessments from the National Occupational Competency Institute (NOCTI).

To meet board criteria as a student-selected verified credit, the course must be:

- Taught by an educator with an industry certification or licensure from an accredited institution.
- Designed to prepare students for an occupation or occupational area.

- Knowledge-based; however, the credential may contain a performance-based component.
- In a CTE field that confers a credential from a recognized industry, trade or professional association or entity.
- Administered on a multi-state or international basis.
- Standardized and graded independent of the school in which the test is given.

To encourage more students to work toward a selected industry credential or state license while pursuing a high school diploma, the **Path to Industry Certification: High School Industry Credentialing** program was developed. Students who earn a credential by passing a certification or licensure examination may earn up to two verified credits to meet graduation requirements. In addition to providing the opportunity to earn verified credits, this initiative provides the following benefits:

- Added value to a transcript for higher education purposes.
- Opportunity for obtaining an entry-level position in the technical job market.
- Evidence that the student has completed advanced educational preparation and verification of CTE business and industry competencies and workplace readiness skills (WRS).
- Increased job opportunities for advancement in a chosen career path.
- Enhanced self-esteem for students through achieving national occupational competency standards recognized by business and industry.

### **CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Special Diploma**

Available to students with disabilities who complete requirements of their IEP and who do not meet the requirements for other diplomas.

#### **Certificate of Program Completion**

Available to students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by the local School Board but who do not qualify for diplomas.

#### **Enrollment Requirements**

All students are required to maintain a **full schedule of classes** that includes courses totaling at least 5.5 hours of instruction except when the student:

- Is in a work-study cooperative program.
- Has been granted permission by the superintendent, as stated in the school board policy at the request of the principal, to take fewer than 5.5 hours of instruction.
- Has an IEP that specifies fewer than 5.5 hours of instruction.
- Is on homebound instruction.
- Is on homebased instruction.
- Is enrolled in approved college classes.

#### **Guidance Procedures and Services**

- Each student will review his/her program of studies with a guidance counselor each year.

- Each student shall take all applicable Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course Tests. Students who fail or have difficulty passing an SOL test will receive remediation assistance. Counselors will provide information on locally awarded verified credits.
- Guidance Counselors at each school, elementary through high school, promote career opportunities that are offered to all students and emphasize the importance of developing marketable skills.
- Guidance Counselors assist students yearly in developing an academic and career tract using the MajorClarity program. The program is designed to afford students the opportunity to experience various careers with quick and easy access to a one-of-a-kind virtual activity supported by video content. Students can customize academic plans of study based on their career interests with a guidance counselor who will keep them on track throughout secondary and post-secondary education.

**GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION**

High School and Middle School students will be classified according to units of credit earned in their respective program of studies.

<b>Promotion to Grade Level</b>		<b>Number of Credits Needed to Advance to the Next Grade Level</b>
8	Successful completion of seventh grade studies.	
9	Successful completion of eighth grade studies that include five (5) classes - three of which must be in English, mathematics, science, or social studies.	6
10	Successful completion of six units of credit in the ninth-grade level of studies.	6
11	Successful completion of six units of credit in the 10 <sup>th</sup> grade level of studies.	6
12	Successful completion of six units of credit in the 11 <sup>th</sup> grade level of studies (can meet all graduation requirements).	6
Graduate	Successful completion of 22 units of credit at the end of the 12 <sup>th</sup> year.	(At least 22)

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