



**Loudoun County Public Schools**  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION**  
21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148

**Virginia Board of Education**  
**Graduation Diploma Seals of Achievement**

**Background:**

Students meeting specific requirements for graduation and demonstrating exemplary performance may receive diploma seals for recognition. VDOE makes available to local school divisions the following seals:

- I. Governor's Seal - The Governor's Seal is awarded to 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 (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, or dual enrollment courses.
- II. Board of Education Seal - The Board of Education Seal is awarded to students who complete the requirements for a Standard Diploma or Advanced Studies Diploma with an average grade of "A" beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2006-2007 and beyond.
- III. Board of Education's Career & Technical Education Seal - The Board of Education's Career & Technical Education Seal is awarded to students who:
  - o earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that they choose and maintain a "B" or better average in those courses
  - o OR pass an examination or an occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification or occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, trade or professional association
  - o OR acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
    - The Board of Education shall approve all professional licenses and examinations used to satisfy these requirements. See [The Path to Industry Certification](#) for the current approved licenses and examinations.
- IV. Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal - The Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal is awarded to students who meet each of the following four criteria:
  - o Satisfy the requirement to earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma
  - o Complete Virginia & United States History and Virginia & United States Government courses with a grade of "B" or higher
  - o Complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities, such as volunteering for a charitable or religious organization that provides services to the poor, sick or less fortunate; participating in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or similar youth organizations; participating in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); participating in political campaigns, government internships, Boys State, Girls State or Model General Assembly; and participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that have a civics focus. Any student who enlists in the United States military prior to graduation will be deemed to have met this community service requirement.

- Have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions as determined by local school board policies.
- V. Board of Education’s Seal of Biliteracy - The Board of Education’s [Seal of Biliteracy](#) is awarded to students who earn a Board of Education-approved diploma and:
- Pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level
  - Demonstrate proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English as demonstrated through an assessment from a list approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. American Sign Language qualifies as a language other than English.
- VI. Board of Education’s Seal for Excellence in Science and the Environment - The Board of Education’s Seal for Excellence in Science and the Environment is awarded to students who enter the ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-2019 year and thereafter, and meet each of the following criteria:
- Earn either a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma
  - Complete at least three different first-level board-approved laboratory science courses and at least one rigorous advanced-level or postsecondary-level laboratory science course, each with a grade of “B” or higher
  - Complete laboratory or field-science research and present that research in a formal, juried setting
  - Complete at least 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities that involve the application of science such as environmental monitoring, protection, management, or restoration.

Students who believe they are eligible for diploma seals IV-VI, will need to fill out the attached application to show successful completion of VDOE requirements. Diploma seals I-III can be determined based on student data and will be awarded accordingly.

# VDOE Diploma Seals of Achievement Student Application Packet

## Directions to Applicants:

1. Complete all sections of the application and obtain a parent's or guardian's signature of approval. Print all information legibly in pen or type.
2. Obtain required content teacher signatures.
3. This application must be completed by MAY 1<sup>st</sup> and turned in to your school counselor who will review the application for completeness and verify that you have met the criteria.

## Demographic Information

Student Name:	Counselor:
PID:	Date:

## PART 1:

Please check the boxes for all diploma seals you are applying for:

- Board of Education's Diploma Seal for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal
- Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy
- Board of Education's Seal for Excellence in Science and the Environment

## PART 2:

Complete the requirements for each seal category. (see final 4 pages)

## Part 3: Parent's (Guardian's) Signature

I am aware of my student's application for the Virginia Department of Education Seals of Achievement. I attest that all of the information provided in my child's application is accurate and true.

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 4: School Counselor

Seals awarded:

- Board of Education's Diploma Seal for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal
- Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy
- Board of Education's Seal for Excellence in Science and the Environment

School Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVICS:**

**To earn a Board of Education Diploma Seal for Excellence in Civics Education a student must satisfy each of the following four criteria:**

1	Satisfy the requirement to earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma.	Which diploma will you be receiving?	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
2	Complete Virginia & United States History & Virginia & United States Government courses with a grade of "B" or higher.	Indicate the grade you received in the required two courses. If currently enrolled please include your Semester One grade.	Virginia/United States History: Final Grade: _____  Virginia/United States Government: Semester Grade: _____
3a	Complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities such as volunteering for a charitable or religious organization that provides services to the poor, sick or less fortunate; participating in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or similar youth organizations; participating in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); participating in political campaigns, government internships, Boys State, Girls State or Model General Assembly; and participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that have a civics focus.	Please complete the following activity log and have the log verified and signed by a current Social Sciences teacher.	Seen and approved:  _____ Social Sciences Teacher
	<i>Name of Organization or Volunteer Activity</i>	<i>Brief Description of Student's Involvement</i>	<i>Number of Hours Volunteered</i>
3b	Any student who enlists in the United States military prior to graduation will be deemed to have met this community service requirement.	If you have enlisted in the military, please check the appropriate branch.	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Marines <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard
4	Have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions as determined by local school board policies.	1) Attendance will be verified by the school counselor. 2) Please answer the following question regarding discipline.	Have you ever been suspended or expelled? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**BILITERACY:**

**To earn a Board of Education Diploma Seal for Biliteracy a student must satisfy meet the following requirements:**

1	Satisfy the requirement to earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma.	Which diploma will you be receiving?	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
2	Pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level. Students should demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting English language arts requirements for high school graduation through whatever means are currently in place to document attainment of that requirement.	Please indicate your SOL Scores in each of the following:	<input type="checkbox"/> EOC Reading SOL Score: <input type="checkbox"/> EOC Writing SOL Score:
3	Demonstrate proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English as demonstrated through an assessment from a list approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. American Sign Language qualifies as a language other than English.	1) Please check qualifications met. 2) Provide evidence of literate proficiency	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass a foreign language AP examination with a score of three or higher or an IB examination with a score of four or higher <input type="checkbox"/> Receive a rating of Intermediate Mid or higher on the LCPS CTT, a nationally or internationally available assessment of proficiency across language skills based on ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Pass a foreign government's approved language exam, or a nation's high school level standardized exam in a language from a country in which the language is taught in school at a level comparable to Intermediate-mid or higher on the ACTFL proficiency scale <input type="checkbox"/> Score 600 or higher on a Latin SAT II test (SAT Subject Test) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of attaining Level 3.0 or higher on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of attaining an intermediate level or higher rating on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI: ASL)
	<i>Proficiency Test Taken &amp; date:</i>	<i>Language &amp; Score:</i>	<i>WL Teacher Signature:</i>

**SCIENCE:**

**To earn a Board of Education Diploma Seal for Excellence in Science and the Environment a student must satisfy each of the following four criteria:**

1	Satisfy the requirement to earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma.	Which diploma will you be receiving?	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
2a	Complete at least three different first-level board-approved laboratory science courses with a grade of "B" or higher.	Place a check next to the courses you have taken and indicate the grade you received.	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth Science ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Biology ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Physics ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Conceptual Physics ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science ____
2b	Complete at least one rigorous advanced-level or postsecondary-level laboratory science course with a grade of "B" or higher	Place a check next to the courses you have taken and indicate the grade you received.	<input type="checkbox"/> AP Biology <input type="checkbox"/> AP Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> AP Physics <input type="checkbox"/> AP Environmental Science <input type="checkbox"/> DE/AP Biology <input type="checkbox"/> DE/AP Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> DE/AP Physics <input type="checkbox"/> DE/AP Environmental Science <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Science Research (ISR) <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Science (GIS)
3	Complete laboratory or field-science research and present that research in a formal, juried setting.	1) Place a check next to the research setting(s) you participated in. 2) Indicate the date(s) of research participation 3) Indicate the research topic & provide a brief description.	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS Forum, James Madison University (JMU) <input type="checkbox"/> ISR Symposium, George Mason University (GMU) <input type="checkbox"/> LCPS Regional Science & Engineering Fair (RSEF) <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair (VSSEF) <input type="checkbox"/> International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) <input type="checkbox"/> High School Science Fair or Symposium <input type="checkbox"/> Academies of Loudoun Symposium <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Junior Academy of Science Research Symposium (VJAS) <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (VJSHS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Must be submitted for approval to the LCPS Science Office

	<i>Date of Research Participation:</i>	<i>Research Topic &amp; Description:</i>		
4	Complete at least 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities that involve the application of science such as environmental monitoring, protection, management, or restoration.	Please complete the following activity log and have the log verified and signed by a current Science teacher.	Seen and approved: <hr/> Science Teacher	
	<i>Name of Organization or Volunteer Activity</i>	<i>Brief Description of Student's Involvement</i>	<i># of Hours</i>	<i>Signature from supervisor</i>