

Credit Accommodations

[Credit accommodations](#) provide alternatives for students with disabilities in earning the standard and verified credits required to graduate with a Standard Diploma. Credit accommodations for students with disabilities may include:

- Alternative courses to meet the standard credit requirements
- Modifications to the requirements for locally awarded verified credits
- Additional tests approved by the Board of Education for earning verified credits
- Allowance of work-based learning experiences through career and technical education (CTE) courses

Permissible Credit Accommodations for Standard Credits

- The [augmented Personal Finance course](#) (3120) may be used to meet the Economics and Personal Finance requirement when the student has earned at least 3 standard credits in history and social science. Upon completion of the augmented Personal Finance course, the student may take the WRS assessment to earn the Board-approved WRS credential.
- Parts I and II of certain required courses may be used to each earn a standard credit towards the total number required in the subject area. Students must complete both parts of the course in order to earn the standard credits. They may earn no more than three content area standard credits by taking these two-part courses.

Permissible Credit Accommodations for Verified Credits

- A substitute test, approved by the Board of Education using the criteria in 8VAC20-131-110(C) may be used to earn verified credit. Refer to [Substitute Tests for Verified Credit](#) for the list of approved tests.
- Expanded expedited retake criteria for students who qualify for credit accommodations, defined as an SOL scaled score of 350-374, rather than 375-399.
- Access to additional locally awarded verified credits, following the same criteria applicable to all students as provided in 8VAC20-131-110(B) of the Standards of Accreditation. To be eligible to earn locally awarded verified credits in English, mathematics, science, or history/social science, a student must:
 - Pass the high school course,
 - Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the SOL test after taking the test at least twice, and
 - Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level.
- The [special permission credit accommodation](#) permits local school boards to award locally awarded verified credits in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and history/social science to certain students with disabilities that score below a 375 score on the SOL test, after taking the test at least once. To be eligible, a student must:
 - Pass the high school course based on a non-modified curriculum,
 - Score below 375 on the SOL test,
 - Have a documented disability that presents a unique or significant challenge to the degree that the student is unable to demonstrate knowledge of the course content on the SOL test using available accommodations, and
 - Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level.

The decision to consider a special permission credit accommodation should be made through the IEP and/or 504 review process. School divisions must submit a Special Permission Credit Accommodation Form to VDOE for each student being considered for a locally awarded verified credit with a SOL scaled score below 375. The form must include documentation regarding the disability that prevents the student from fully demonstrating their knowledge of the course content on the SOL test despite having accommodations. This documentation should include evidence of the use or consideration of other credit accommodations and other substitute assessment options.

[Parent Information on Standard and Verified Credits](#)

Credit Accommodations at a Glance

Accommodation	Available to All Students	Students with Disabilities (IEP and 504) who Qualify for Credit Accommodations
Expanded Score Range for Expedited Retake	N/A	Students with a scaled score between 350-374 are eligible for an expedited retake on that test with the exception of English Writing. No expedited retakes are available in English Writing.
Expanded Use of Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC)	<p>Mathematics, English Reading and Writing, Science and History/Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 are limited to three LAVC in any subject that may be applied toward a Standard Diploma. • Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond are limited to one LAVC in any subject that may be applied toward a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. 	<p>Students eligible for credit accommodations shall not be subject to the limitations on the number of verified credits that may be awarded through this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 that require more than three LAVC in any subject must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan. • Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond that require more than one LAVC must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan. <p>Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPLAVC-A): Participate in subject/course related SOL- non-modified curriculum, test and score below 375; meet requirements stated in the Eligibility Criteria Request for Review; and follow local school division’s LAVC appeal process.</p>
Economics and Personal Finance	Economics and Personal Finance (6120)	Personal Living and Finances (3120) substitutes for Economics and Personal Finance (6120) (must have earned three standard credits in History/Social Sciences)
Courses Taught in Two Parts	One elective credit and one standard credit	Two standard credits for one sequence in a content area. **

***Credit accommodations may only be applied toward a Standard Diploma.**

** Examples using mathematics: Algebra I Part 1 = 1 standard credit, Algebra I Part 2 = 1 standard credit; Geometry 1 Part 1 = 1 elective credit, Geometry I Part 2 = 1 standard credit; OR Algebra I = 1 standard credit; Geometry I Part 1= 1 standard credit, Geometry I Part 2= 1 standard credit