

## SOL Testing Refusal Information

Potomac Falls High School

Spring 2021

### ❖ Why are we giving SOL tests this year when we didn't last year?

In March 2020, Virginia public schools closed for the duration of the school year. Virginia was able to acquire a waiver from the United States Department of Education for federally mandated assessments in Reading, Math, and Science. Virginia allowed locally awarded verified credits (LAVCs) for state mandated assessments in Writing and History. This year, schools are not closed, and the United States Department of Education is not providing a waiver. We must administer tests, regardless of the instructional model or health conditions.

### ❖ Can SOL tests be administered online at home?

The short answer is no. Virginia is unable to administer SOL tests in a manner that would jeopardize their security. This includes remote administration which would be vulnerable to screen captures or other recording violations. Additionally, certain system and network requirements can only be fulfilled in the school building.

### ❖ How can you say it's safe to test but it isn't safe to instruct?

Virginia must administer the SOL tests in-person with proctors in the school building. LCPS has implemented rigorous [health mitigation strategies](#) to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### ❖ What SOL tests does my student need to graduate?

Non-transfer undergraduate students (Grades 9-11) need five verified credits (Reading, Writing, 1 Math, 1 Science, and 1 History) regardless of diploma type. Non-transfer Seniors need either six verified credits (Standard Diploma) or nine verified credits (Advanced Diploma). Please refer to [diploma requirements](#).

There are also [substitute tests](#) that can be used in place of SOL tests. The typical substitute tests are the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT, and AP tests. Please contact your student's counselor to explore this option.

In addition to Virginia graduation requirements, US Department of Education requires that we test students in Biology, and one Math, in high school for **Federal Accountability**. If a student has already obtained a Science or Math verified credit, a SOL test taken only for "Federal Accountability" may be refused without any negative consequences. It will not impact a student's course grade, diploma status or graduation. However, by taking these tests, the student helps us to have a clear picture of our strengths as a school.

### ❖ What is LCPS doing in place of SOL testing in History this year?

In SOL History courses (World History 1, World History 2, and VA/US History), LCPS is implementing **performance assessments** that will replace the SOL tests in May. Performance assessments will be scored by the teacher using state rubrics. All students enrolled in the SOL course are highly encouraged to participate.

### ❖ How do I refuse SOL testing this year?

LCPS recognizes this has been a challenging year for students, and they may not feel prepared to take SOL tests or be comfortable with in-person testing due to COVID-19. Parents and students may decide to wait until the 2021-2022 school year to take required SOL tests. **It is highly recommended to talk with your student's counselor before refusing tests.** Parents may indicate their refusal of SOL tests by filling out this form:

<https://permission.click/84DqO/us#/information>