Virginia Board of Education Diploma Types

- Advanced Studies Diploma
- Standard Diploma
- Applied Studies Diploma
Advanced Studies Diploma for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- 26 Standard Unit of Credits
- Five Verified Units of Credits
- Three years of one foreign language or two years of two foreign languages
- One credit in Fine or Performing Arts and one in Career or Technical Education Electives
- Economics and Personal Finance
# Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-51) for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Standard Credits</th>
<th>Verified Credits</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>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 and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Social Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history. Virginia and U.S. government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Personal Finance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Studies Diploma - Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- **Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential** - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course or (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.
Advanced Studies Diploma - Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- 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.
Standard Diploma for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- 22 Standard Unit of Credits
- Five Verified Units of Credits
- At Least Two Sequential Electives
- Economics and Personal Finance
- One Virtual Course
- One CTE Credential
### Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-51) for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

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<th>Subject Area</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two different course selections from among: algebra I, geometry, algebra functions, and data analysis, algebra II, or other mathematics courses approved by the board to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laboratory Science</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selection from at least two different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics, or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. 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 science course credit. 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 either a laboratory 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 as an additional test to verify student achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>History and Social Sciences</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. 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 either a laboratory 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 as an additional test to verify student achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Per the Standards of Quality, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical course credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics &amp; Personal Finance</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standard Diploma - Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- **Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential** - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course, or (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 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.

- **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.
The Applied Studies Diploma is a diploma option available to students identified as having a disability who complete the requirements of their individualized education programs (IEPs) and meet certain requirements prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to regulations, but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma.
Understanding the Applied Studies Diploma

Limitations of Applied Studies Diploma
- Not equivalent to a Standard Diploma.
- Difficult to change to other diploma options once pursued.
- May not qualify a child for higher education, federal financial aid and some employment opportunities.
- Eligible for FAPE through the age of 22.

Available only for children with disabilities:
- Complete the requirements of their IEP.
- Do not meet requirements for Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.

Testing Decision Options
- Determined by IEP Team.
- Documented in IEP.
- Assessment Participation Options:
  - Standards of Learning (SOL) test with no accommodations.
  - SOL test with accommodations.
  - Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).

When Should I Begin Thinking About Diploma Options?
- Start thinking about diploma options as soon as child enters school.
- Chose diploma option that best meets goals for life after high school.
- Plan to achieve highest diploma option necessary to meet goals.

Key Curriculum Point
- Modifications vs Accommodations
  - Modifications:
    - Expectations are different from other children.
    - Content or tasks may be reduced in depth and complexity.
    - Participates in VAAP assessment.
  - Accommodations:
    - Expectations are same as other children.
    - Accommodations are made that support access to the general curriculum.
    - Participates in SOL tests.

Diploma Options: Applied Studies Diploma

Questions to Ask IEP Team
- How do the decisions that we are making in elementary school about a child’s participation in state assessments relate to the diploma options that will be available?
- What are the key factors to consider in making decisions about diploma options?
- When is the latest point at which I will be able to change my mind about my child’s diploma option?

Career Planning
- Important People: School Counselor & IEP Team
- Elementary & Middle School Activities:
  - Explore Career Clusters and Pathways (CTE Career Clusters) and
  - Create an Academic and Career Plan (Road map to goals) and
- Receive instruction in Career Investigations

FOR MORE ON THIS: Check out What you Need to Know About Assessments and What you Need to Know About Diploma Options.
Verified Credits Are Required For A Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma

Students may earn verified credits needed for their diploma by:

- Passing an EOC SOL test with a score of 400 or higher
- Achieving a VDOE determined cut score or higher on an approved substitute test
- Meeting eligibility criteria for a locally awarded verified credit
  - Passing/has passed the course
  - Took the SOL test twice, with one score between 375-399
  - Submission of documentation of content mastery to a review panel
ASSESSMENT CHANGES AND OPTIONS

- Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Changes to Virginia’s Standards of Accreditation
- Changes to Assessment Administration beginning 2018-2019
Effective immediately, high school students only need to take an SOL test if they require the resulting verified credit for their diploma or if the test is federally mandated.

**Federally Mandated:**
- EOC Reading
- EOC Math
- EOC Science

**State Required:**
- EOC Reading, Math & Science
- EOC Writing
- EOC History

Previously, high school students were required to take an SOL test if one was associated with their course, regardless of whether they needed the resulting verified credit.

This change, coupled with the decrease in verified credits, results in less testing for all students.
Federal Accountability

ESSA requires that states identify one specific high school test that will be used to calculate federal pass rates and student participation. This data is reflected in the School Quality Profile on VDOE’s website.

Virginia Selected:
- EOC Reading
- EOC Math (Algebra I or Algebra II or Geometry) or AP, IB, SAT, ACT*
- EOC Science (Biology)

There is an expectation that all high school students will take the Biology SOL test even if they have already earned the verified credit they require from passing the Earth Science SOL test.

There is an expectation that all 9th grade students will take an EOC Math SOL test even if they have already earned the verified credit they require from passing the Algebra I SOL test while in middle school.
Assessment Options

Review:

- In order to earn a standard or advanced studies diploma, students must pass an SOL test, must earn a qualifying score on a Board-approved substitute test, and/or earn a locally awarded verified credit (limited to 1*), which generally requires a score of 375 or higher on an SOL test.

- Students may remediate and retest (for SOLs) during the fall, winter, spring and/or summer test windows set by VDOE.

- Students may retest once within the same test window if they earn a score of 375 or there is a reasonable expectation that a retest will result in a score of 375 or higher.

Example of assessment options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Content Assessment</th>
<th>How The Student Met the Verified Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EOC Reading</td>
<td>Student earned a passing score on the Workplace Documents test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC Math (Algebra I)</td>
<td>Student earned a passing score on the Math section of the PSAT NMSQT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC Science (Biology)</td>
<td>Student used their 1 LAVC after failing the Biology SOL test twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC History</td>
<td>Student passed the World History I Performance Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC Writing</td>
<td>Student earned a passing score on the Writing SOL test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exception for credit accommodations
Accommodations

- Available for state and federally required tests
- Intended to allow for meaningful engagement with an assessment, not enhance performance
- Should be implemented instructionally prior to use in assessment
- VDOE/Vendor does set rules for eligibility that must be followed, but there may be a pathway for unique accommodations
- The College Board must review and approve test accommodations - SSD Coordinator at your high school, also varies for CTE tests/certifications
- Should be discussed at least annually during the IEP/504/EL Team meeting and documented
- Contact your School Test Coordinator and/or your child’s Case Manager for more information
Credit Accommodations

Credit accommodations provide alternatives for students with disabilities in earning the standard diploma 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
- Adjusted cut scores on tests for earning verified credits
- Allowance of work-based learning experiences through career and technical education (CTE) courses
### Credit Accommodations at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Available to All Students</th>
<th>Students with Disabilities (IEP and 504) who Qualify for Credit Accommodations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Score Range for Expedited Retake</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Expanded Use of Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC) | Mathematics, English Reading and Writing, Science and History/Social Sciences  
- 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. | 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.  
- 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. |
| 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) | 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. |
| Courses Taught in Two Parts                         | One elective credit and one standard credit | Two standard credits for one sequence in a content area. ** |

** 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.
Special Permission Credit Accommodation for Locally Awarded Verified Credit

The Special Permission Credit Accommodation for Locally Awarded Verified Credit was added to provide those students with disabilities who previously might have used the Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) with a pathway to earn the necessary locally awarded verified credits to obtain a *standard diploma.*
Process to Consider a Credit Accommodations for Students with IEPs/504 Plans

A student is struggling with course content and requires significant support. The student's IEP/504 Plan has a standards-based goal for this content area.

IEP/504 Team meets and determines student is eligible for a credit accommodation in the content area. The team completes the eligibility form and a copy is placed in the student’s Scholastic Record.

As a result of eligibility, the student can now earn a verified credit if they test twice, fail both SOL tests and score between 375-399 OR the student can earn a retake if they test once and fail with a score between 350-374 OR they can pursue an alternate test OR they can take the next course in 2 parts.
VDOE CREDIT ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit_accommodations.shtml
Planning Together

- Make an appointment with your child’s counselor and case manager
- Utilize Transition Teachers at each high school
- Ask for Academic and Career Plan, if you have not seen it
- Ask about plans for each school year
- Ask about course selection options each school year
- Ask about credit accommodations
Profile of a Virginia Graduate
In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual:

**CONTENT KNOWLEDGE**
- Attains and is able to use the knowledge and skills described in the Standards of Learning for core instruction areas (English, math, science, and history/social science), the arts, personal wellness, languages, and Career and Technical education programs.
- Attains and demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to transition to and achieve in a global society and be prepared for life beyond high school graduation.
- Explores multiple subject areas that reflect personal interests and abilities.

**WORKPLACE SKILLS**
- Attains and demonstrates productive work ethic, Professionalism, and personal responsibility.
- Communicates effectively in a variety of ways, and to a variety of audiences, to interact with individuals and within groups.
- Demonstrates workplace skills including collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible citizenship.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**
- Makes connections and is involved in the community through civic opportunities.
- Demonstrates integrity, maintains personal health and wellness, and shows respect for others.
- Shows respect for diversity of individuals, groups, and cultures in words and actions.
- Understands and demonstrates citizenship by participating in community and government decision-making.

**CAREER EXPLORATION**
- Understands knowledge, skills and abilities sought by employers for career opportunities.
- Aligns knowledge, skills, and abilities with personal interests to identify career opportunities.
- Sets goals for career, school and life and has knowledge of a variety of pathways, course work, and/or requirements to achieve goals.
- Develops skills to align to current workplace needs, and that adapt to evolving job opportunities.
- Applies skills and knowledge by participating in workplace experiences.

**Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Citizenship**
Profile of a Virginia Graduate
In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual Will, During His or Her K-12 Educational Experience:

- Achieve and apply appropriate academic and technical knowledge
- Align knowledge, skills, and personal interests with career opportunities
- Attain and demonstrate productive workplace skills, qualities, and behaviors
- Build connections and value for interactions with diverse communities

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

CAREER EXPLORATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

WORKPLACE SKILLS
Thank you for attending