Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities

January 15, 2013
Code of Virginia 22.1.253.13:4

• This change in the regulations changed the number of diploma types

• The bills (HB1061 and SB 489) eliminated the Modified Standard Diploma, Standard Technical Diploma, Advanced Technical Diploma and the General Achievement Diploma
The diploma types described are:

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma with one virtual course; Standard Diploma with accommodations for SWD; the guidelines for credit accommodations will be issued by the Board of Education
- Career and Technical Education within the Standard Diploma
- Special Diploma
Modified Standard Diploma

- No longer an option for SWD entering 9th grade for the first time in 2013-2014

- Students enrolled in 9th grade prior to 2013-2014 who were seeking a Modified Standard diploma will complete their course of study.
Credit Accommodations

• Means adjustments to meet the standard and verified credit requirements for earning a Standard Diploma for students with disabilities.
Credit Accommodations

• May include:
  ➢ Approval of alternative courses to meet the standard credit requirements;
  ➢ Modifications to the requirements for local school divisions to award locally awarded verified credits
  ➢ Approval of additional tests to earn a verified credit
  ➢ Adjusted cut scores required to earn verified credit
  ➢ Allowance of work-based learning experiences
Standard Diploma

• 4 credits in English (2 verified credits)
• 3 credits in Math (1 verified credit)
• 3 credits in Laboratory Science (1 verified credit)
• 3 credits in History and Social Sciences (1 verified credit)
• 2 credits in Health and PE
Standard Diploma

• 2 credits in Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education
• 1 credit in Economics and Personal Finance
• 4 Electives
• 1 Student Selected Test (1 verified credit)

• Total – 22 credits (6 verified credits required)
Advanced Studies Diploma

• 4 credits in English (2 verified credits)
• 4 credits in Math (2 verified credits)
• 4 credits in Laboratory Science (2 verified credits)
• 4 credits in History and Social Sciences (2 verified credits)
• 3 credits in a Foreign Language
Advanced Studies Diploma

• 2 credits in Health and PE
• 1 credit Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education
• 1 credit in Economics and Personal Finance
• 3 Electives
• 1 Student Selected Test (1 verified credit)

• Total – 26 credits (9 verified credits required)
Requirement for Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma

• To receive a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma, students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course, or may be a course required to earn the diploma that is offered online.
What’s Next?

• More guidance from the Virginia Department of Education in these areas:
   Alternative courses to meet the standard credit requirements;
   Modifications to the requirements for local school divisions to award locally awarded verified credits
   Approval of additional tests to earn a verified credit
   Adjusted cut scores required to earn verified credit
   Allowance of work-based learning experiences