

Highlights of Proposed Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia – July 2009

At its February 2009 meeting, the Virginia Board of Education approved final changes to its regulations governing the accreditation of public schools.

The regulatory changes included the following elements, to be effective beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year:

1. prescribing the requirements of the Standard Technical Diploma and the Advanced Technical Diploma;
2. increasing the number of standard units of credit for the Advanced Studies diploma;
3. requiring a course in economics and personal finance as a graduation requirement;
4. requiring all students, beginning in middle school, to have an Academic and Career Plan; and
5. incorporating graduation rates into Virginia's accountability system.

The regulatory changes included the following elements, to be effective beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year:

1. Double Testing: clarifying that no student shall take more than one test in any content area in each year;
2. Student Records: ensuring that the State Testing Identifier (STI) for students who transfer into a Virginia public school from another Virginia public school be retained by the receiving school;
3. Virtual Virginia: ensuring that credits earned through Virtual Virginia are accepted in Virginia public schools; and
4. Accreditation Ratings: ensuring that testing benchmarks used for 2008-2009 ratings will be used for 2009-2010 ratings.