

Proposed Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation Responsive to
Legislative Directives (2012-2015)

Part	Section	Proposed Change
Part I: Definitions and Purpose	8 VAC20-131-5	The revision eliminates the term “Special Diploma” and replaces it with the term “Applied Studies Diploma.” SB 1236 (2015).
Part II: Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives		
Part III: Student Achievement	8 VAC 20-131-30	The revision requires the Board to promulgate regulations to provide the same criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any Standards of Learning test, with the exception of the writing SOL tests, to each student regardless of grade level or course. HB 1490 and SB 874 (2015).
	8 VAC 20-131-50 8 VAC 20-131-60	Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2016-2017, in order to be to be awarded a Standard or an Advanced Studies Diploma, students are to be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators. HB 2028 and SB 986 (2013).
	8 VAC 20-131-50	The amendment replaces the term General Educational Development (GED) program or test with "a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education" or “a high school equivalency preparation program.” HB 1007 (2014).
	8 VAC 20-131-50	The revision requires the Board to establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy in time for any student graduating from a public high school in 2016 to be awarded such a diploma seal. HB 1351 and SB 916 (2015).
	8 VAC 20-131-50	The revision creates an alternative when a Career and Technical Education (CTE) credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency. Under such circumstances, the student must receive competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. HB 2276 (2015).
	8 VAC 20-131-50 8 VAC 20-131-60	The revision eliminates the term “Special Diploma” and replaces it with the term “Applied Studies Diploma.” SB 1236 (2015).
Part IV: School Instructional Program	8 VAC 20-131-100	The revision permits local school divisions to waive the requirement for students to receive 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit

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		upon providing the Board of Education with satisfactory proof, based on Board guidelines, that the students for whom such requirements are waived have learned the content and skills included in the relevant Standards of Learning. HB 1675 and SB 982 (2015).
Part V: School and Instructional Leadership		
Part VI: School Facilities and Safety	8 VAC 20-131-260	This revision will require local school boards to adopt and implement policies for the possession and administration of epinephrine in every school. HB 1107 and SB 656 (2012).
	8 VAC 20-131-260	This revision requires each school to have a school threat assessment team. The threat assessment teams shall provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community. HB 2344 (2013).
	8 VAC 20-131-260	The amendment requires at least two lockdown drills every year, one in September and one in January. HB 2346 (2013).
	8 VAC 20-131-260	The amendment requires school boards to allow students with diabetes who have parental consent to carry supplies with them while at school and to self-check blood glucose levels on school property. HB 134 and SB 532 (2014).
Part VII: School and Community Communications		
Part VIII: School Accreditation	8 VAC 20-131-280	This change will add three points to the Graduation and Completion Index for each student who earns a diploma and a career and technical education (CTE) credential. HB 642 and SB 514 (2012).
	8 VAC 20-131-280	This revision permits the Board, subject to certain specified conditions, to review the accreditation status of a school once every three years if the school has been fully accredited for three consecutive years and there has been no change in division boundaries in the previous year that affects more than ten percent of the student population of

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		the school. HB 1674 (2015).
	8 VAC 20-131-280	The revision requires the Board of Education, for the purposes of the Standards of Accreditation, to use a graduation rate that excludes any student who fails to graduate because he or she is in the custody of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or local law enforcement. Note: This requirement becomes effective on July 1, 2016. HB 2318 (2015).
	8 VAC 20-131-300	The revision establishes additional accreditation ratings that recognize the progress of schools and student growth. HB 1873 and SB 1320 (2015).