

# **The Standards of Quality (SOQ)**

**Standard 1. Instructional Programs  
and  
Standard 4. Graduation Requirements**

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## Standard 1.

**Instructional programs supporting the  
Standards of Learning and other  
educational objectives**



# Preamble

- **Establishes the fundamental goal for Virginia's public schools:**

To enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school, preparation for life, and reaching their full potential.

- **Recognizes that the quality of education is dependent upon the provision of:**

- Appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to ensure high-quality instructional personnel;
- Appropriate learning environment designed to promote student achievement;
- Quality instruction to enable students to become productive and educated citizens; and
- Adequate commitment of other resources.

***Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1 (A)***



# Standard 1: Standards of Learning

- **Requires the Board to establish Standards of Learning (SOL) and other educational objectives.**
- **Requires school boards to implement the SOL or establish educational objectives that exceed the Board's requirements.**

Local curricula must align with the SOL.

- **Requires review and revision of each SOL at least every seven years.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1 (B)*



# Standard 1: Standards of Learning

## The SOL must include:

- Basic skills of communication
- Computation and Critical reasoning, including problem solving and decision making
- Proficiency in the use of computers and technology
- Skills to manage personal finances and to make sound financial decisions.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(B)*



# Standard 1: Core Subject SOL

**SOL must be established for these subjects:**

- **English, which must include:**

In grades K-3, effective reading instruction shall include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and text comprehension.

- **Mathematics**

- **Science**

- **History and Social Science, which must include:**

The study of contributions to society of diverse people, to encompass disability, ethnicity, race and gender.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(B)*



# Existing Standards of Learning

Subject	SOL Required by
English	Standard One
Mathematics	Standard One
Science	Standard One
History and Social Science	Standard One
Family Life	<i>Code of Virginia § 22.1-207.1</i>
Economics and Personal Finance	<i>Code of Virginia § 22.1-200.03</i>
Fine Arts	
Foreign Language	
Computer Technology	
Health	<i>Code of Virginia § 22.1-207</i>
Physical Education	<i>Code of Virginia § 22.1-207</i>
Driver Education	<i>Code of Virginia § 22.1-205</i>



# Standard 1: Health and Physical Education

- **Health SOL must include:**

Emergency first aid, CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

- **A physical fitness program must be available to all students with a goal of at least 150 minutes/week.**

Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(B) and (D)(15)





# Standard 1: Other Required Programs

School boards must implement:

- Art, music, and physical education in elementary school.
- Economic and financial literacy education objectives in middle and high school.
- Student services programs for grades K-12 to aid in educational, social, and career development.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(D)*



# Standard 1: Program of Instruction

Each school division's program of instruction must emphasize:

- Reading, writing, and speaking.
- Mathematical concepts and computations.
- Computer and technology proficiency.
- Scientific concepts and processes.
- Fine and practical arts.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(C)*



# Standard 1: Program of Instruction

**Each school division's program of instruction must emphasize:**

- Skills and concepts of citizenship including knowledge of:
  - World, US, and Virginia history
  - Economics
  - Government
  - Foreign languages and international cultures
  - Health and physical education
  - Environmental issues
  - Geography
- Knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education or training, gainful employment, and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

***Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(C)***



# Standard 1: Career & Technical Education

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs must:**
  - Be incorporated throughout the K-12 curricula.
  - Include career exploration in middle school.
  - Align with industry and professional certifications where they exist.
  - Integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for secondary students.
  - Be based upon labor market needs and student interest, including a plan developed with local industries and community colleges.
  - Include counseling on employment opportunities and placement services for students exiting school.
- **English, mathematics, science, and history and social science SOL must be integrated into CTE competencies.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(B) and (D)(3)*



# Standard 1: Other Required Programs

School boards must provide:

- **Dropout prevention programs.**
- **Early identification and enrollment into differentiated programs for:**
  - Students with disabilities
  - Students with limited English proficiency
  - Gifted students
- **Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in other SOQ-prescribed programs.**
- **Adult education programs.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(D)*



# **Standard 1: Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation**

- **School divisions must provide programs of prevention, intervention, and remediation.**
- **Remediation is compulsory for students who fail all SOL assessments in grades 3-8, or who fail an end-of-course test required for a verified credit.**
- **Full funding for summer remediation programs is as provided in the Appropriation Act.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(C)*



# Standard 1: Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation

**Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance is to be provided for students with reading and mathematics problems – including:**

- Reading intervention in grades K-3 to students demonstrating deficiencies.
- Algebra readiness intervention to students in grades 6-9 who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(D)(13)*



# Standard 1: Miscellaneous

- School boards must implement a dual enrollment agreement for postsecondary degree attainment with a community college concurrent with a diploma.
- School boards must notify parents and students of opportunities for dual enrollment, AP classes, IB programs, Governor's school programs, and financial assistance for AP and IB exams.
- School boards are permitted to enter into agreements for postsecondary credential certification or license attainment with public postsecondary institutions.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(D) and (F)*





# Standard 1: Miscellaneous

- **School boards are required to collect and analyze data to make decisions about the instructional program.**
- **VDOE to establish a unit to conduct evaluative studies, provide resources and assistance to school divisions, with priority given to divisions with less than a 70% passage rate on SOL assessments.**

*This initiative has not been funded.*

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1(D) and (E)*



**Standard 4.**  
**Student Achievement**  
**and**  
**Graduation Requirements**



# Standard 4: Standard Diploma Requirements

**Board to establish requirements to earn a standard diploma, which must include:**

- One credit: US/Virginia History
- One credit: Fine or performing arts or career and technical education
- Training in first aid, CPR, and the use of AEDs
- Completion of one virtual course, which may be noncredit bearing
- At least two sequential electives geared toward future training or employment.
- A career and technical education credential or satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area if a credential is not available or appropriate.

***Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(D)***



# Standard 4: Standard Diploma Requirements

Discipline	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	SOQ-Prescribed Requirements
English	4	2	
Mathematics	3	1	
Laboratory Science	3	1	
History and Social Science	3	1	1 credit must be in US/VA History
Health and Physical Education	2		Training in First Aid, CPR & AED usage
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or CTE	2		1 credit in Fine Arts or CTE
Economics and Personal Finance	1		Required by § 22.1-200.03
Electives	4		2 sequential electives
Student Selected Test		1	
CTE Credential (or instruction if no credential available or appropriate)			Required
			1 Virtual Course, which may be noncredit bearing



# Standard 4: Advanced Studies Diploma Requirements

**Board to establish requirements to earn an advanced studies diploma, which must include:**

- One credit: US/Virginia History
- One credit: Fine or performing arts or career and technical education
- Training in first aid, CPR, and the use of AEDs
- Completion of one virtual course, which may be noncredit bearing

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(D)*



# Standard 4: Advanced Studies Diploma Requirements

Discipline	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	SOQ-Prescribed Requirements
English	4	2	
Mathematics	4	2	
Laboratory Science	4	2	
History and Social Science	4	2	1 credit must be in US/VA History
Foreign Language	3		
Health and Physical Education	2		Training in First Aid, CPR & AED usage
Fine Arts or CTE	1		1 credit in Fine Arts or CTE
Economics and Personal Finance	1		Required by § 22.1-200.03
Electives	3		2 sequential electives
Student Selected Test		1	
			1 Virtual Course, which may be noncredit bearing



## Standard 4: Students with Disabilities

- Reasonable accommodation must be provided for students with disabilities to earn an Advanced Studies or Standard Diploma.
- Board to establish requirements to earn an Applied Studies Diploma for students who complete their IEP but do not qualify for Advanced Studies or Standard Diplomas.
- School divisions shall award certificates of completion for students completing a locally-prescribed course of study if they are ineligible for a diploma.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(A),(B) and (C)*



# Standard 4: General Achievement High School Diploma

## Board to establish requirements to earn a General Achievement High School Diploma, which must include:

- A passing score on a Board-approved high school equivalency exam,
- Completion of an education and training program approved by the board, and
- A Board-approved career and technical education credential.

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(F)*





# Standard 4: Diploma Seals

- **Board to establish criteria for awarding diploma seals for:**
  - Exemplary performance in career and technical education programs.
  - Advanced mathematics and technology.
  - Excellence in civics education.
  - Biliteracy.
- *The Board, on its own motion, has established the Governor's seal and the Board of Education seal.*
- *School divisions also can create diploma seals for exemplary performance.*

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(E) and 8VAC20-131-50 (H)*



# Standard 4: Flexibility

- **Requires verified credits to be awarded to students, after passing the appropriate assessment, when:**
  - SOL for required courses are integrated into an elective
  - Qualified students demonstrate mastery of course content without completing the 140 hour course
  - Students take Board-approved industry certifications, state licensure examinations, and national occupational competency assessments.
- **All computer science course credits are to be considered as science, mathematics, or CTE credits.**
- **Permits the Board to waive graduation requirements for good cause on a case-by-case basis.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(D)*



# Standard 4: Reporting

- **Board to establish a formula to report uniform graduation rate and dropout data to the public.**
  - For accreditation purposes, students who fail to graduate because they are in custody of DOC, DJJ, or local law enforcement shall be excluded.
- **School Performance Report Card to include certain career and technical education completion and exam data.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(D),(G) and (H)*



# Standard 4: School Division Responsibilities

- **To award diplomas to all secondary students who meet the Board's graduation requirements.**

Each school board may have additional requirements, with Board approval.

- **To facilitate the transfer and grade placement of students transferring between secondary schools, from nonpublic schools, from home instruction or from Virtual Virginia, in accordance with the Standards of Accreditation.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(A)*



# Standard 4: School Division Responsibilities

- **Notify parents of rising 11th & 12th graders of the student's outstanding graduation requirements.**
- **Notify parents of their right to a free education through the appropriate age, for students who fail to graduate.**

*Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:4(A),(B) and (C)*

