

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item:                     K                    

Date:           July 28, 2011          

**Topic:** First Review of a Request for Approval of a Modification of Graduation Requirements, Pursuant to 8 VAC 20-131-50 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, from Montgomery County Public Schools

**Presenter:** Ms. Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communication  
Mr. Nelson W. Simpkins, Director of Secondary Education, Montgomery County Public Schools

**Telephone Number:**   (804) 225-2403  

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## Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by  
 State or federal law or regulation  
 Board of Education regulation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Action requested at this meeting

Action requested at future meeting:   September 22, 2011  

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action  
date \_\_\_\_\_  
action \_\_\_\_\_

**Background Information:** The Standards of Quality (SOQ), in § 22.1-253.13:4 of the *Code of Virginia*, require local school boards to "...award diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who earn the units of credit prescribed by the Board of Education, pass the prescribed tests, and meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the local school board and approved by the Board of Education."

Standard 8 VAC 20-131-50 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (Standards of Accreditation) addresses graduation requirements. The regulation says, in part: "The requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the ninth grade for the first time. Students shall be awarded a

diploma upon graduation from a Virginia high school.... The following requirements shall be the only requirements for a diploma, unless a local school board has prescribed additional requirements that have been approved by the Board of Education. All additional requirements prescribed by local school boards that have been approved by the Board of Education, remain in effect until such time as the local school board submits a request to amend or discontinue them....”

The Board’s *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards of Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* gives school divisions guidance in prescribing additional credit requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies diplomas. The guidance document says, in part:

**Standard Diploma:** Generally, the Board will approve requests from local school divisions to require up to two additional local credits to obtain the Standard Diploma, up to a maximum of 24 required credits. Generally, the Board will approve local requests for additional graduation credit requirements in the core discipline areas of the Standards of Learning (English, mathematics, science or history/social science).... Requests for additional local credits in disciplines outside the core discipline areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Advanced Studies Diploma:** Generally, the Board will approve requests from local school divisions for local additional credits required for the Advanced Studies Diploma above the 24 contained in the standards if the credits are in the discipline areas of English, mathematics, science, history/social studies, fine arts (including performing arts), career and technical education, or foreign language. The Board will consider credits outside these disciplines on a case-by-case basis.

**Transfer Students:** Any local school division receiving approval to increase its course credit requirements may not deny either the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma to any transfer student who has otherwise met the requirements contained in the standards, if the transfer student can only meet the division's requirements by taking a heavier than normal course load in any semester, by taking summer school, or by taking courses after the time when he or she otherwise would have graduated.

**Prospective Application / Advance Notice:** A local school division’s additional credit requirements should apply only to students who have not yet entered ninth grade at the time the additional credits are approved.

**Allocation of Electives:** Generally, the Board will approve requests from local school divisions to allocate elective credits for local prescribed course requirements, while reducing the number of electives by an equal amount so that the total number of graduation credit requirements remains unchanged....

The Standards of Accreditation, at 8 VAC 20-131-50 set forth the requirements for five Board-approved diplomas, the Standard Diploma, Standard Technical Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, Advanced Technical Diploma, and Modified Standard Diploma. These requirements for the first four diplomas, the Standard Diploma, Standard Technical Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, and Advanced Technical Diploma, were amended by the Board of Education on February 19, 2009, effective for the

ninth-grade class of 2010-2011. In response to legislation passed by the 2010 General Assembly, on June 24, 2010, the Board of Education amended the regulations to delay the implementation of the requirements for the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma for one year, effective for the ninth-grade class of 2011-2012.

The 2011 General Assembly passed legislation delaying the effective date or some of the provisions of these regulations for another year, but the legislation, HB 1554 and SB 810, did not delay the implementation of the graduation requirements for the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma. HB 1554 and SB 810 said, in part: *“Furthermore, notwithstanding the provisions of this section, regulations prescribing economics and financial literacy as a graduation requirement and related changes to the standard and advanced studies diplomas, pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, shall become effective July 1, 2011.”* The 2011 legislation did, however, delay the implementation of the Standard Technical Diploma and the Advanced Technical Diploma for another year, effective for the ninth-grade class of 2012-2013. The Board of Education approved amendments to these regulations at its June 23, 2011, meeting to comport with the legislation passed by the 2011 General Assembly.

**Summary of Major Elements:** The Montgomery County School Board received approval from the Board of Education in 1999 to grandfather in local graduation requirements for both the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma that exceeded those prescribed in the Standards of Accreditation. The approval required students to earn one standard credit in career and technical education and one standard credit in fine arts or performing arts for both the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma.

The Montgomery County School Board requests that it be permitted to maintain this graduation requirement for the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma, and to expand it to the Standard Technical Diploma, the Advanced Technical Diploma, and the Modified Standard Diploma. Students pursuing a Standard Diploma or a Standard Technical Diploma could continue to take foreign language classes as electives, but not have the option to use standard credits in foreign languages to meet the graduation requirement that requires students to take two courses in foreign languages, fine arts, or career and technical education (Standard Diploma) or one course in foreign language or fine arts (Standard Technical Diploma). Montgomery County Public Schools would also require students pursuing a Modified Standard Diploma to earn one standard credit in fine arts and one in career and technical education, which would be a new approval since the Modified Standard Diploma was not included in the grandfathered approval.

The Montgomery County School Board strongly believes that both fine arts and career and technical education are essential requirements. Both are seen as essential to prepare students with the skills needed for a career, and to provide opportunities for creativity. They note, however, that many of the students who earn a Standard Diploma take foreign language classes. They have provided information that 59.09 percent of the students in the class of 2011 who earned a Standard Diploma were enrolled in foreign language classes during their high school career.

A copy of the request submitted by the Montgomery County Public Schools is attached. Charts showing the current and proposed requirements are also attached.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the request from Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Impact on Resources:** The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** The request will be presented to the Board of Education for final review and approval at the September 22, 2011, meeting. Following the meeting, Department of Education staff will notify the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools of the decision of the Board of Education.

## Standard Diploma

	Standard Credit Requirements for MCPS Prior to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	BOE Standard Credit Requirements Beginning with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	Standard Credit Requirements Proposed by MCPS
English	4	4	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	3	3
Laboratory Science <sup>2, 6</sup>	3	3	3
History and Social Sciences <sup>3, 6</sup>	3	3	3
Health and Physical Education	2	2	2
Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Career and Technical Education <sup>7</sup>		2	
Fine or Performing Arts	1		1
Career and Technical Education	1		1
Economics and Personal Finance		1	1
Electives <sup>4</sup>	4	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 above the level of Algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections 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. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.

<sup>6</sup> 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 (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a 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 of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.

<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:4, Code of Virginia, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.

## Standard Technical Diploma

	Standard Credit Requirements for MCPS Prior to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2012-2013	BOE Standard Credit Requirements Beginning with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2012-2013	Standard Credit Requirements Proposed by MCPS
English	N/A	4	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	N/A	3	3
Laboratory Science <sup>2, 5</sup>	N/A	3	3
History and Social Sciences <sup>3, 5</sup>	N/A	3	3
Health and Physical Education	N/A	2	2
Fine Arts or Foreign Language	N/A	1	
Fine or Performing Arts	N/A		1
Economics and Personal Finance	N/A	1	1
Career and Technical Education <sup>4</sup>	N/A	4	4
Electives	N/A	1	1
<b>Total</b>	N/A	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, or Algebra II or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>2</sup> 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. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include a career concentration as approved by the board. If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the board and the student is eligible to take the assessment, then the student must take this assessment.

<sup>5</sup> 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 (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a 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.

## Advanced Studies Diploma

	Standard Credit Requirements for MCPS Prior to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	BOE Standard Credit Requirements Beginning with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	Standard Credit Requirements Proposed by MCPS
English	4	4	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	4	4	4
Laboratory Science <sup>2</sup>	4	4	4
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	4	4	4
Foreign Language <sup>4</sup>	3	3	3
Health and Physical Education	2	2	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education		1	
Fine or Performing Arts	1		1
Career and Technical Education	1		1
Economics and Personal Finance		1	1
Electives	1	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

## Advanced Technical Diploma

	Standard Credit Requirements for MCPS Prior to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2012-2013	BOE Standard Credit Requirements Beginning with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2012-2013	Standard Credit Requirements Proposed by MCPS
English	N/A	4	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	N/A	4	4
Laboratory Science <sup>2</sup>	N/A	4	4
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	N/A	4	4
Foreign Language <sup>4</sup>	N/A	3	3
Health and Physical Education	N/A	2	2
Economics and Personal Finance	N/A	1	1
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	N/A	1	
Fine or Performing Arts	N/A		1
Career and Technical Education <sup>5</sup>	N/A	3	3
Electives	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	N/A	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

<sup>5</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include a career concentration as approved by the board. If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the board and the student is eligible to take the assessment, then the student must take this assessment.

## Modified Standard Diploma

	Standard Credit Requirements for MCPS Prior to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	BOE Standard Credit Requirements Beginning with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-2012	Standard Credit Requirements Proposed by MCPS
English	4	4	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	3	3
Laboratory Science <sup>2, 6</sup>	2	2	2
History and Social Sciences <sup>3, 6</sup>	2	2	2
Health and Physical Education	2	2	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	1	
Fine or Performing Arts			1
Career and Technical Education			1
Electives <sup>4</sup>	6	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and probability and statistics in courses that have been approved by the board.

<sup>2</sup> Courses completed shall include content from at least two of the following: applications of earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics in courses approved by the board.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia History and one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia Government in courses approved by the board.

<sup>4</sup> Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives in the same manner required for the Standard Diploma.



**Mr. Nelson W. Simpkins  
Director of Secondary Education  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
200 Junkin Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
(540) 382-5107**

**TO: Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent  
Policy and Communications**

**FROM: Nelson W. Simpkins, Director of Secondary Education** *NWS*

**DATE: June 22, 2011**

**SUBJ: Request for Waiver of Certain Accrediting Standards**

Enclosed you will find the Requirements for Graduation waiver request for Montgomery County Public Schools. The request was approved by our local school board on June 21, 2011. Should you require additional information, please advise.

Encl/kf

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
P.O. Box 2120  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN ACCREDITING STANDARDS  
AND/OR APPROVAL  
OF AN INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§§ 22.1-253.13:1 et seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30.

This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to the beginning of an accrediting cycle or the proposed implementation of the program or activity that precipitates the request for the waiver. The types of waivers available and the corresponding section of the standards are indicated below. Please attach additional sheets or information deemed appropriate. (The Board will consider this request in its monthly meeting and school divisions are required to appear before the board in person or electronically to explain a waiver request.)

SCHOOL DIVISION Montgomery County Public Schools

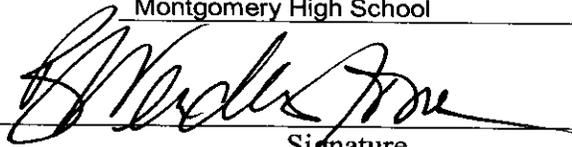
TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY 8VAC20-131-50 Requirements for Graduation (Montgomery County Public Schools CTE and Fine Arts Graduation Waiver Request to Continue Requiring one CTE and one Fine or Performing Arts Credit for Graduation)

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:

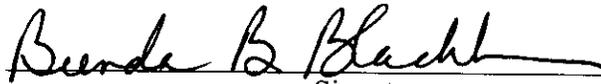
- Approval of an Alternative to the Standard School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150)
- Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan (8 VAC 20-131-280.D)
- Approval of an Experimental Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of an Innovative Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of a Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350)  
(Complete Pages 1 and 3 of the application only.)
- 

SCHOOL(S) INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Auburn High School, Blacksburg High School, Christiansburg High School, Eastern Montgomery High School

June 21, 2011  
Date Approved  
by the Local School Board

  
Signature  
Chairman of the School Board

June 22, 2011  
Submission Date

  
Signature  
Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION

Montgomery County Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

8VAC20-131-50 Requirements for Graduation (Montgomery County Public Schools CTE and Fine Arts Graduation Waiver Request to Continue Requiring one CTE and one Fine or Performing Arts Credit for Graduation)

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IF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS SO AND PROVIDE A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF PROGRAM, ITS PURPOSE, THE GRADES SERVED, DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DESCRIBING THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING, THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM'S GOALS, EVALUATION PROCEDURES, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

N/A

DOES THE PROGRAM REQUIRE THAT SCHOOLS IN THE DIVISION OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY?

YES  NO.

IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY.

IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

N/A

DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM.

All MCPS students graduating with a Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, or Modified Standard Diploma will earn a minimum of one credit from the following disciplines:

Fine or Performing Arts ----- 1 Credit  
Career and Technical Education ----- 1 Credit

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## TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

8VAC20-131-50 Requirements for Graduation (Montgomery County Public Schools CTE and Fine Arts Graduation Waiver Request to Continue Requiring one CTE and one Fine or Performing Arts Credit for Graduation)

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IF YOU ARE SEEKING A WAIVER OF A PROVISION OR PROVISIONS OF THE ACCREDITING STANDARDS, STATE THE PROVISION AND THE RATIONALE FOR SEEKING A WAIVER FOR EACH.

8 VAC 20-131-50. Requirements for Graduation

Montgomery County Public Schools received a waiver from the Virginia Board of Education in 1999 to require both a Fine and Performing Arts and a Career and Technical Education credit for graduation requirement which continues today. Our Board of Education and school community strongly believe that both disciplines are essential for development of the total child.

Requiring both a Fine Arts and CTE unit of credit has resulted in dissolving the line between academic and vocational tracks and has helped guide students to new career possibilities and skill sets that they may never have learned otherwise. The requirement for one CTE credit has also led to significant improvement in our CTE curricula. The requirement for one Fine Arts credit gives students an opportunity to explore and develop their creative aptitude and abilities.

CTE courses provide a setting for students to learn both computer and workplace readiness skills that are essential for success in the twenty-first century. Fine and Performing Arts courses provide awareness of another array of career possibilities and help complete the well rounded and self-aware graduate.

Foreign language opportunities for all students will not be compromised. Students pursuing Standard or Standard Technical diplomas will continue to have opportunities to enroll in foreign language classes through their elective options. Students pursuing Advanced Studies or Advanced Technical diplomas will enroll in foreign language classes to meet the requirements explicitly outlined in the SOAs. (Note Appendix A Data Sheet)

CTE and Fine and Performing Arts courses are the areas that many times need the jump start that comes from requiring one unit of credit each. Without this requirement, many students may miss valuable opportunities to fully develop essential skills before high school graduation.

Requiring one CTE and one Fine and Performing Arts Credit for all students:

- Helps to dissolve the historic divide between vocational and academic offerings
- Draws more college bound students into valuable CTE and Fine Arts programs
- Provides for strong career planning
- Presents the Workplace Readiness Skills curriculum to all students
- Develops leadership skills
- Exposes students to essential technology tools
- Allows students to develop their creative skills
- Encourages retention and improves the graduation rate
- Encourages social and emotional development
- Provides life-long appreciation and understanding that adds to students' quality of life
- Introduces students to hands-on and experiential learning
- Encourages CTE and Fine Arts curriculum improvement

**Therefore, Montgomery County Public Schools request to continue requiring one CTE credit and one Fine or Performing Arts credit for graduation when awarding the following diplomas:**

Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2011-12, in order to graduate from the Montgomery County Public Schools, a student must meet all applicable requirements set forth in the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) and Standards of Quality (SOQ). The requirements for a student to earn a diploma are those in effect when he or she enters ninth grade for the first time.

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## **Standard Diploma**

A Standard Diploma will be awarded to students who earn the following standard units of credit:

<b>Discipline Area</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>Verified Credits Required</b>
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2,6</sup>	3	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3,6</sup>	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	2	
Fine or Performing Arts	1	
Career and Technical Education	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives <sup>4</sup>	4	
Student Selected Test <sup>5</sup>		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Standard Technical Diploma:**

Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2011-12 and beyond, a Standard Technical Diploma will be awarded to students who earn the following credits:

<b>Discipline Area</b>	<b>Standard Units of Credit Required</b>	<b>Verified Credits Required</b>
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2,5</sup>	3	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3,5</sup>	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine or Performing Arts or Foreign Language	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Career and Technical Education <sup>4</sup>	4	
Electives	1	
Student Selected <sup>6</sup>		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>

## Advanced Studies Diploma:

Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2011-2012 and beyond, an Advanced Studies Diploma will be awarded to students who earn the following standard units of credit:

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	4	2
Laboratory Science <sup>2</sup>	4	2
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	4	2
Foreign Language <sup>4</sup>	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine or Performing Arts <del>or Career and Technical Education</del>	1	
Career and Technical Education	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3 2	
Student Selected Test <sup>5</sup>		1
Total	26	9

**Advanced Technical Diploma**

Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2011-12 and beyond, and Advanced Technical Diploma will be awarded to students who earn the following credits:

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	4	2
Laboratory Science <sup>2</sup>	4	2
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	4	2
Foreign Language <sup>4</sup>	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	
Career and Technical Education <sup>5</sup>	3	
Student Selected Test <sup>6</sup>		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>

**Modified Standard Diploma:**

Credits required for graduation with a Modified Standard Diploma.

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required
English	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3
Science <sup>2</sup>	2
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1
Career and Technical Education	1
Electives <sup>4</sup>	6
	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WAIVER/PROGRAM/ACTIVITY. (Include information that includes measurable goals, objectives, and student academic achievement that will be expected as a result of the implementation of the program/activity.)

All students graduating from Montgomery County Public Schools must meet all applicable requirements set forth in the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) and Standards of Quality (SOQ). All MCPS students graduating with a Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, or Modified Standard Diplomas will also earn a minimum of one credit from the following disciplines:

- Fine or Performing Arts ----- 1 Credit
- Career and Technical Education ----- 1 Credit

Number of students involved in the program 2926  
 What is the anticipated length of the program or duration of the waiver? Beginning with the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2011-12 and Beyond

Questions should be directed to the Division of Policy and Communications at (804) 225-2092, or by e-mail to [policydata@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:policydata@doe.virginia.gov). This application and supporting documentation must be sent to:

Division of Policy and Communications  
 Department of Education P. O. Box 2120 Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Appendix A  
 Montgomery County Public Schools  
 Standard Diploma/Foreign Language  
 Comparative Data for  
 Graduating Class of 2011

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Students Receiving a Standard Diploma</b>	<b>Students Receiving a Standard Diploma Enrolled in Foreign Language Classes</b>	<b>Total Percentage</b>
Auburn	42	23	54.76
Blacksburg	61	41	67.21
Christiansburg	74	43	58.11
East Mont	43	23	53.49
Totals	220	130	59.09

Appendix A  
 Montgomery County Public Schools  
 Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma/Foreign Language  
 Comparative Data for Graduating Class of 2011

School Name	# Students in 2011 Graduating Class	# Students Receiving a Standard Diploma	# Students Receiving a Standard Diploma and Foreign Language Classes	% of Students Receiving Standard Diploma Enrolled in Foreign Language Classes	# Students Receiving an Advanced Studies Diploma	% of Graduating Class Receiving Advanced Studies Diploma	Total # Students Enrolled in Foreign Language Classes	% of Graduating Class Enrolled in Foreign Language Classes
AHS	93	42	23	54.76%	44	47.31%	67	<b>72.04%</b>
BHS	236	61	41	67.21%	166	70.34%	207	<b>87.71%</b>
CHS	220	74	43	58.11%	127	57.73%	170	<b>77.27%</b>
EMHS	79	43	23	53.49%	29	36.71%	52	<b>65.82%</b>
<b>Total MCPS</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>59.09%</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>58.28%</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>78.98%</b>