

Virginia Department of Education  
Office of Adult Education and Literacy

**Five Ways to Earn a High School Credential**  
**Board of Education Recognized Diplomas or Certificate**

CREDENTIAL	REQUIREMENTS	ISSUED BY
<b>High School Diploma</b> - Standard Diploma - Advanced Studies Diploma	<b>Adult High School</b> Adult students who are enrolled in an Adult High School Program and complete all requirements of the diploma regulated by the Board of Education (Board) in effect at the time they will graduate will be awarded a diploma as provided in 8 VAC 20-131-50.	School Division
<b>Adult High School Diploma</b>	<b>Adult High School</b> Adult students who are enrolled in an Adult High School Program and complete the course credit requirements in effect for any Board recognized diploma, with the exception of health and physical education course requirements, at the time they first entered the ninth grade, will be awarded an adult high school diploma. The requirement for specific assessments may be waived if the assessments are no longer administered to students in Virginia public schools.	School Division
<b>General Achievement Adult High School Diploma (GAAHSD)</b>	<b>GAAHSD Program</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earn 20 credits: Four in English; three in math; two in science; two in history and social sciences; nine electives, with at least two sequential in an area of concentration or specialization. These courses shall include content that incorporates or exceeds the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any of the Board-recognized diplomas.</li> <li>2. Achieve a passing score on a high school equivalency (HSE) examination approved by the Board; currently, the only approved HSE examination in Virginia is the GED<sup>®</sup> test.</li> <li>3. Successfully complete an education or training program designated by the Board; earn a Board-approved career and technical education credential such as the successful completion of an industry certification (e.g., Career Readiness Certificate), a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment.</li> </ol>	School Division

<b>CREDENTIAL</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>ISSUED BY</b>
<b>Adult High School Diploma</b>	<p><b>National External Diploma Program (NEDP)</b>                      Students must successfully demonstrate through applied performance 100 percent mastery of the 70 NEDP<sup>®</sup> Generalized Competencies in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, geography, history, financial literacy, health literacy, cultural literacy, civic literacy, and 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace skills.</p>	School Division
<b>Official Virginia Certificate</b>	<p><b>High School Equivalency (HSE) Certificate Program</b>                      Successfully pass an approved HSE examination; currently the only approved HSE examination in Virginia is the GED<sup>®</sup> test.</p>	Virginia Department of Education