

# **Transitions for Military Students: Through the eyes of School Counselors**

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Military-Connected School Counselors**

**Virginia Military Interstate Compact Commission  
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# Part 1: Military-Connected School Counselors

Our Positions

Our Schools

Our Selves

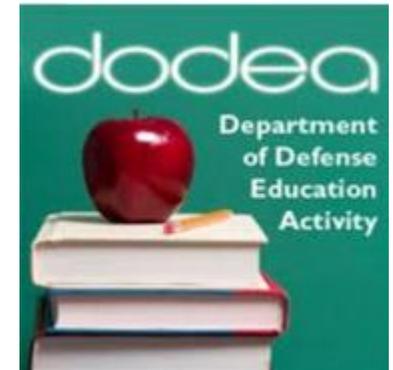
Typical Week

Impacts

“COMS” program

# About Our Positions

- DODEA grant to VBCPS funded 2 School Counselor positions
  - Assist with transitions
  - Encourage peer support (S2S)
  - Social Emotional Support
  - Raise Awareness and Responsiveness
  - Engage Military Families
  - Increase STEM college & career interests



# About Our Schools

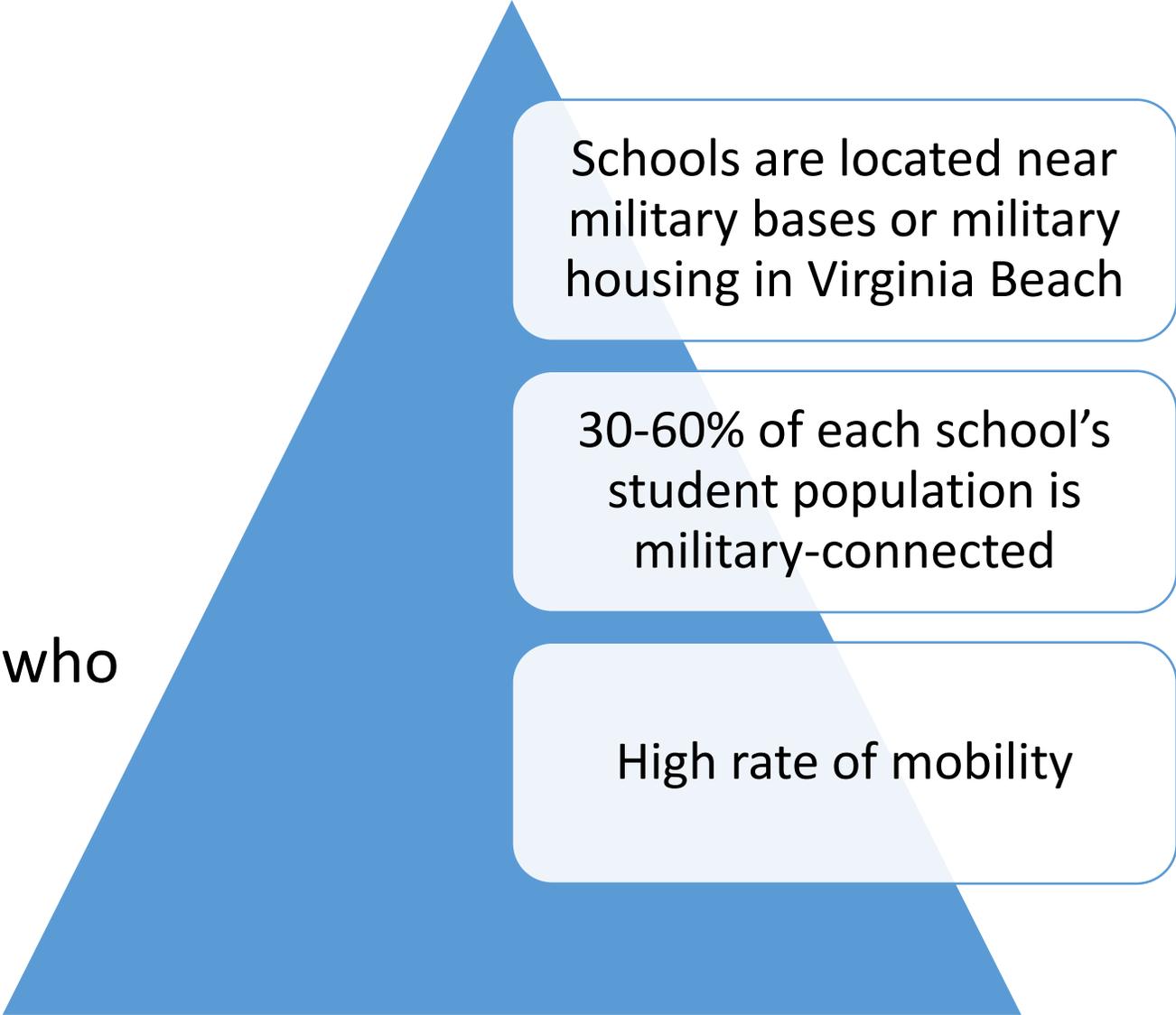
We serve:

2 Elementary Schools

2 Middle Schools

2 High Schools

“Serving the children of those who  
serve us all.”



Schools are located near  
military bases or military  
housing in Virginia Beach

30-60% of each school's  
student population is  
military-connected

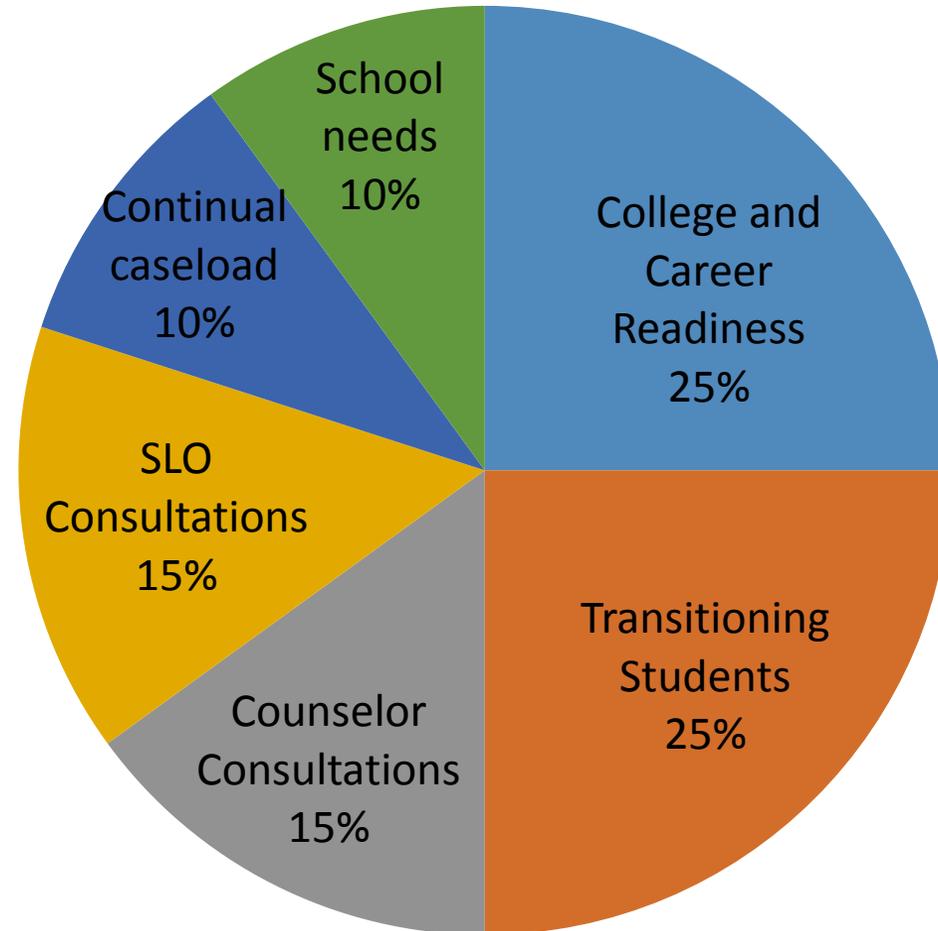
High rate of mobility

# About Us

- Amanda is a combat veteran.
- Megan is a military spouse.
- Personally military-connected means:
  - Understand the language
  - Relate to what the families are going through
  - Knowledge of resources
  - Used GI Bill
- School Counseling background provides:
  - Understanding of Student Needs
  - Social-emotional tools
  - Transcript & Graduation expertise

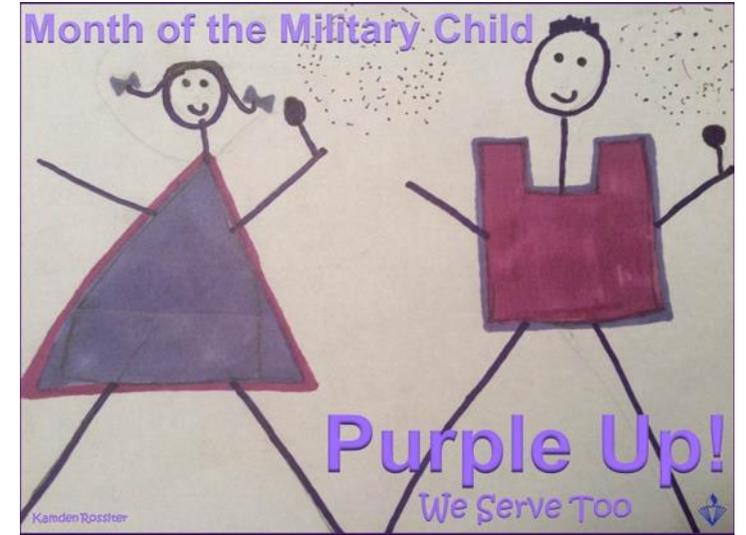
We know what the terms  
PT, Bravo Zulu,  
Roger That, orders,  
and PCS mean and use them  
on a daily basis.

# Typical Week



# Impacts

- Connect students & families with resources
- Collect data
  - Determine trends
  - Identify student & family needs
  - Pinpoint challenges (curriculum, social, graduation, GI Bill)
- Raise awareness of military connected student/family concerns
- Assist SLOs and other counselors for military families across the state
- Train educators about the Military Interstate Compact and challenges of military students
- Identify strengths of military families



# College Options for Military Students

- Created “COMS” College Options for Military Students
- Presented COMS at
  - Ocean Lakes High School (2014 & 2015)
  - Landstown High School (2015)
  - Virginia College Access Network state conference (2014)
  - Virginia School Counselor Association state conference (2014 & 2015)
  - Worldwide School Liaison Officer training (2015)
  - Virginia Beach City Public Schools Professional Learning Opportunity (2015)



Post 9/11 GI Bill Transferability

# Part 2: Challenges

Verified credits

Yearlong Government

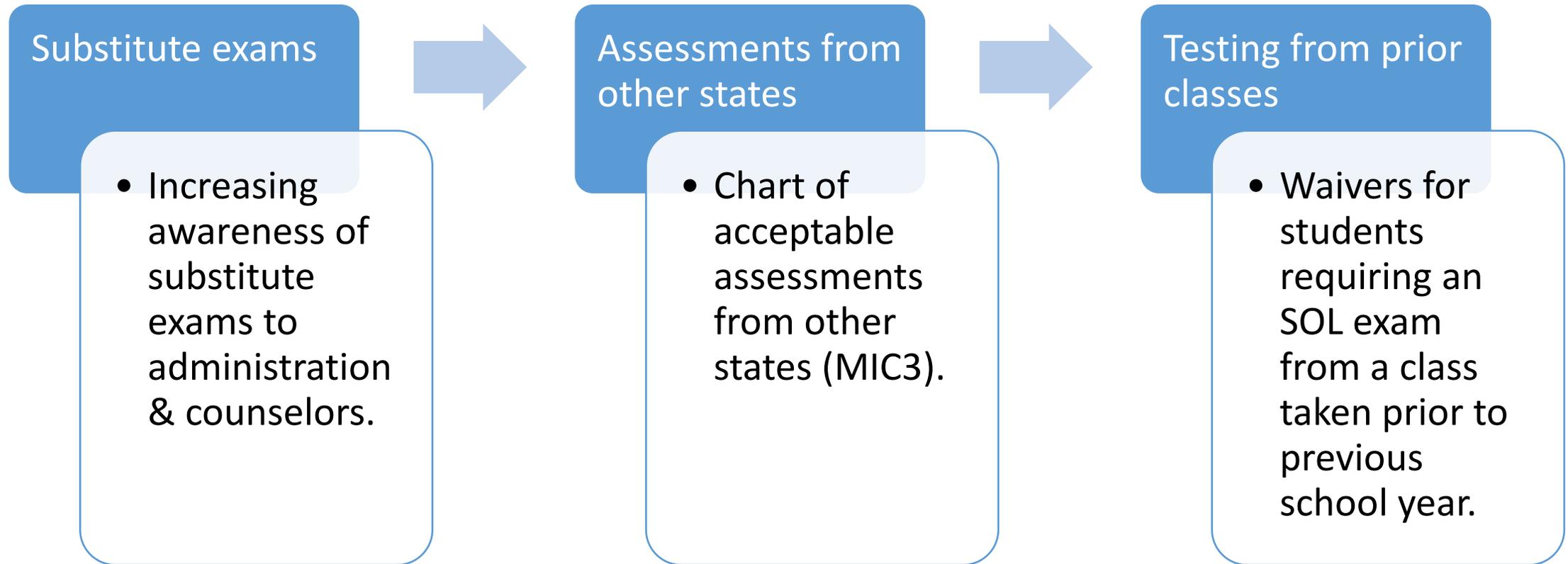
Spring Transfers

Math variations

In-State Tuition

Academies

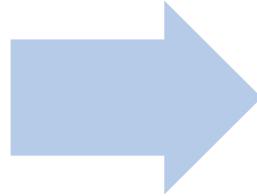
# Concern 1: Verified credits (SOL exams)



# Concern 2: Government class

Virginia's yearlong government unique to VA

- Virtual Virginia (for students with orders to VA).
- Virtual Virginia (those students leaving VA).



Alternatives:

- AP Government
- Community college courses

# Concern 3: Spring transfers

## Transfers in the April-June timeframe

- Encourage divisions to have students complete work and tests prior to moving (not during the move).
- Encourage divisions to waive up a longer period.

# Brain Break

Which subject do you think transitioning students experience the most difficulty with?

English

Social Science  
& History

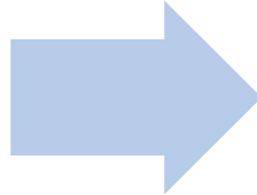
Math

Science

# Concern 4: Math variations

Recognition that math is not the same everywhere.

- Encouragement for math teachers to understand there are differences.
- Example: Social Studies teachers are often understanding of this concept and work with students; however, math teachers often believe that math is the same everywhere.



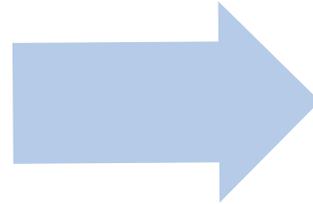
Algebra I and II curricula are very different in other states vs. Virginia.

- Ideally, an online program that would allow students to complete modules to fill in the knowledge gaps.

# Concern 5: In-state College Tuition

Currently in-state tuition IF

- Parent is from Virginia
- Parent is stationed in Virginia



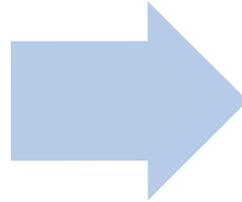
Many seniors have orders in VA during college application time, then the parent receives new orders.

- Require colleges to honor the orders the service member has at time of application, in addition to the orders at time of enrollment.
- Consider military dependents who attended junior year and started their senior year at a Virginia high school as in-state.

# Concern 6: Academies

Lack of equitable opportunities with regards to academies and magnet or specialty programs.

- Encourage divisions to include “Highly Mobile Family Spots” for students arriving after the deadline.
- Lead by example with Governor’s School programs



Example: 2% of spots in a program are held for students arriving after the deadline in January but before July 1.  
-If none of the new students are qualified, those spots may be given on July 1 to wait-listed students.  
-Precedent in Connecticut

# Thank You!

**Military children will say good-bye to more significant people by age 18 than the average person will in their lifetime.**

## SOL Substitute Tests for Verified Credit

### Effective Beginning with the 2014-2015 School Year

The tests included in this list may be used to award verified credit for students and are included in the accreditation calculations for schools. Students who take substitute tests for verified credit should not be required to also take the corresponding Standards of Learning (SOL) test.

#### English Substitute Tests

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced
End-of-Course (EOC) Writing	AP English Language and Composition+	2	3
	International Baccalaureate® (IB) English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level)+	2	3
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT)+ Writing Subscore	17	24
	Cambridge International Examination: Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) First Language English	D	C
	Cambridge International Examinations: English Language General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Subsidiary-(AS) Level	E	D
	ACT: English/Writing Combined Score	16	22
	WorkKeys: <i>Writing</i> ++	3	4
	WorkKeys <i>Business Writing</i>	3	4
	AP English Literature and Composition+	2	3
	SAT I Writing	400	500

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
<b>EOC Reading</b>	AP English Literature and Composition+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Standard Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature and Language (Higher Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature (Standard Level)+	2	3
	IB English Language A: Literature (Higher Level)+	2	3
	Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based Test (iBT)+ Reading Subtest	16	21
	Cambridge International Examinations: Literature in English (IGCSE)	E	C
	Cambridge International Examination: English Language GCE-Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level	E	D
	Cambridge International Examination: Literature in English GCE Advanced (A) Level	E	D
	ACT: Reading Subtest	17	22
	AP English Language and Composition+	2	3

+ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in English.

++ Available as a substitute test for the EOC writing test based on the 2002 SOL only.

## Mathematics Substitute Tests

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra I	CLEP College Algebra	30	40
	IB Math Studies+++ (Standard Level)	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)+++	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)+++	3	4
	SAT I Mathematics Subtest	440	520
	SAT II Math IC	500	570
	SAT II Math IIC	590	660
	AP Calculus +++	2	3
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Mathematics	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C
	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	18	26
Algebra II	IB Math Studies+++ (Standard Level)	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)+++	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)+++	3	4
	SAT II Math IC	500	570
	SAT II Math IIC	590	660
	AP Calculus +++	2	3
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Additional Mathematics	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: Mathematics (A Level)	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: Further Mathematics (A Level)	E	D

<b>SOL Test</b>	<b>Substitute Test</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
	CLEP College Algebra	50	63
Geometry	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Mathematics	E	C
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Extended Mathematics	D	C
	ACT: Mathematics Subtest	20	27
	IB Math Studies (Standard Level)+++	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Standard Level)+++	3	4
	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)+++	3	4
	SAT II Math IC	500	570
	SAT II Math IIC	590	660
	AP Calculus+++	2	3

+++ Students may use this test to earn two verified credits in mathematics.

## Science Substitute Tests

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced
Earth Science	Cambridge International Examinations: Environmental Science, GCE - AS Level	E	D
	IB Environmental Systems and Society (Standard Level)	2	3
	AP Environmental Science	2	3
Biology	AP Biology	2	3
	SAT II Biology Ecological OR Molecular	350	450
	CLEP General Biology	30	40
	IB Biology (Higher Level)	2	3
	IB Biology (Standard Level)	2	3
	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE -A Level	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: Biology, GCE- AS Level	E	D
Chemistry	AP Chemistry	2	3
	SAT II Chemistry	400	500
	CLEP General Chemistry	33	43
	IB Chemistry (Higher Level)	2	3
	IB Chemistry (Standard Level)	2	3
	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE- A Level	E	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: Chemistry, GCE - AS Level	E	D

## History and Social Science Substitute Tests

SOL Test	Substitute Test	Proficient	Advanced
US History	AP US History	2	3
	CLEP History of US I and II (total score for both tests)	60	80
	SAT II American History	400	500
	IB US History (Higher Level)	2	3
World History and Geography to 1500 AD	SAT II World History	450	530
	AP World History	2	3
World History and Geography from 1500 AD	SAT II World History	450	530
	AP World History	2	3
	AP European History	2	3
	IB History of Europe	2	3
World Geography	AP Human Geography	2	3
	Cambridge International Examinations: IGCSE Geography	F	D
	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -AS Level	E	C
	Cambridge International Examinations: GCE -A Level	E	D
	IB Geography Test	2	3

## Handout: Transitions for Military Students: Through the eyes of School Counselors

### First-time Transfers to a Virginia Public School

Graduation requirements – in compliance with 8VAC 20-131-60 – for a student transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time in grades 9-12, depends on the grade the student is transferring into and when in the school year the student is transferring.

A student is considered to have transferred at the **beginning** of the school year if 20 or fewer hours of instruction have been completed. A student is considered to have transferred **during** the school year if more than 20 hours of instruction has been completed.

[Board of Education Guidelines for Local School Boards to Award Verified Credits for the Standard Diploma to Transition Students](#) (PDF)

### Standard Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-60.G.1 and H)

Beginning = First 20 hours of instruction

During = After the first 20 hours of instruction

- Six verified credits required for a student transferring during the 9th grade or at the beginning of the 10th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Science – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- Four verified credits for a student transferring during the 10th grade or at the beginning of the 11th grade
  - English – 1
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Studies – 1
- Two verified credits for a student transferring during the 11th grade or at the beginning of the 12th grade
  - English – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- For a student transferring during the 12th grade, every opportunity should be given to earn a diploma; if this is not possible the local school division should seek to have the previous school award the diploma or request from VDOE a waiver of the verified credit requirement.

## Advanced Studies Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.C)

Beginning = First 20 hours of instruction

During = After the first 20 hours of instruction

- Nine verified credits required for a student transferring during the 9th grade or at the beginning of the 10th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 2
  - Science – 2
  - History & Social Science – 2
  - Student Selected – 1
- Six verified credits for a student transferring during the 10th grade or at the beginning of the 11th grade
  - English – 2
  - Mathematics – 1
  - Science – 1
  - History & Social Studies – 1
  - Student Selected – 1
- Four verified credits for a student transferring during the 11th grade or at the beginning of the 12th grade
  - English – 1
  - Student Selected – 3
- For a student transferring during the 12th grade, every opportunity should be given to earn a diploma; if this is not possible the local school division should seek to have the previous school award the diploma or request from VDOE a waiver of the verified credit requirement.