

Standards of Accreditation: Implications for Counselors

*A Teleconference sponsored by the
Virginia Department of Education*

November 28, 2001
(Updated December 6, 2001)



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SOA Implications for Counselors

- ✓ **Instructional Issues**
 - ✦ Office of Secondary Instruction
804.225.2880 or instruction@mail.vak12ed.edu
- ✓ **Special Education Issues**
 - ✦ Office of Special Education and Support Services
804.225.3252 or cpomfrey@mail.vak12ed.edu
- ✓ **Assessment Issues**
 - ✦ Office of Assessment and Reporting
804.225.2102 or jconway@mail.vak12ed.edu
- ✓ **Accreditation Issues**
 - ✦ Office of Accreditation
804.786.1062 or accredit@mail.vak12ed.edu



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SOA Implications for Counselors

*Division of
Assessment and Reporting*

- Student Achievement Expectations
- Literacy Passport Tests



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Student Achievement Expectations 8 VAC 20-131-30.B.

- Schools shall use SOL test results as a part of a set of multiple criteria for promotion/retention policies.
- Students shall not be required to retake SOL test(s) unless they are retained in grade and have not previously passed the test(s).
- Students who participate in a remediation recovery program shall be required to retake SOL test(s).



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Student Achievement Expectations 8 VAC 20-131-30.C.

- Remediation recovery
 - English and math in K-8
 - Math only in 9-12
 - 9th graders who failed 8th English and/or math can be remediated in 9th grade year
 - Each passing score will count 1 on the numerator and 0 on the denominator for determining pass rates, a failing score will not count on either numerator or denominator



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Student Achievement Expectations 8 VAC 20-131-30.D.


The Board recommends that students K to 8 not be required to attend summer school or weekend remediation classes solely based on failing a SOL test in science or history.



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Student Achievement Expectations
8 VAC 20-131-30.E.


- Each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL test(s) following course instruction.
- Schools may use SOL test score in determining student's final course grade.



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Student Achievement Expectations
8 VAC 20-131-30.E.


- No student who has failed an end-of-course test but passed the related course, shall be prevented from taking any other course in a content area and from taking the applicable end-of-course SOL test.



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Literacy Passport Tests
8 VAC 20-131-40


- Students who were in the eighth grade or above in the 1998-99 school year shall be required to pass the Literacy Passport Tests in order to receive a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma from a Virginia Public School.
- All 1998-99 AND 1999-00 ninth-grade students must meet the course and credit requirements (those in effect the first time they were in the 9th grade) AND pass the LPT in order to earn a diploma.



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Standard Diploma and Advanced Studies Diploma Requirements for Virginia Public Schools

Dr. Linda Wallinger
Director
Secondary Instructional Services




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Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.
September 28, 2000
(Standards of Accreditation - SOA)

and

Guidelines Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
November 30, 2000




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Options for Completing High School

- ★ Standard Diploma
- ★ Advanced Studies Diploma
- Modified Standard Diploma
- Special Diploma
- Certificate of Program Completion

★ Will be discussed in this presentation



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Effective Date for Graduation Requirements 8 VAC 20-131-50.A

- Requirements for a student to earn a diploma from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the ninth grade for the first time.
- High School Courses Successfully Completed Prior to Grade 9
 - Awarding of Standard Credit
 - Credit shall be counted toward meeting the standard units required for graduation provided the courses meet SOL content requirements or are equivalent in content and academic rigor, as those courses offered at the secondary level.
 - Awarding of Verified Credit
 - Students must meet the same requirements outlined for a verified credit.



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Standard and Verified Credits

8 VAC 20-131-110



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A Standard Credit is Based on:

- A minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction
- Successful completion of the requirements of the course

8 VAC 20-131-110.A



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A Verified Credit is Based on:

- A minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction
- Successful completion of the requirements of the course
- The achievement of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test or a substitute test for that course

8 VAC 20-131-110.B



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Standard and Verified Credits for Electives

- A student may earn a standard or a verified unit of credit for any elective course in which the core academic SOL course content has been integrated and the student passes the end-of-course SOL test.
- Such course and test combinations must be approved by the Board.

8 VAC 20-131-110.B



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End-of-Course Tests Available for Verified Credit

English	Mathematics	Science	History and Social Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 11: R/L/R* • English 11: Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Science • Biology • Chemistry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History and Geography to 1000A.D.** (Part I) • World History and Geography from 1000 A.D.** (Part II) • World Geography • Va. and U.S. History

*Reading/Literature/Research


**Beginning Fall, 2003, 1000 A.D. becomes 1500 A.D.



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Standard Diploma


8 VAC 20-131-50.B



Standard Diploma Standard and Verified Credit Requirements 8 VAC 20-131-50.B


Transitional requirements - Transfer options will be discussed later

Ninth graders in:	If graduate in 4 years:	Must earn # standard credits	Must earn # verified credits
1997-1998	2001	21	Must pass LPT; 0 verified credits
1998-1999	2002	22	Must pass LPT; 0 verified credits
1999-2000	2003	22 Must include 2 sequential electives	Must pass LPT; 0 verified credits
2000-2001 2001-2002 2002-2003	2004 2005 2006	22 Must include 2 sequential electives	6 verified credits total: 2 English 4 student selected
2003-04 and beyond	2007 and beyond	22 Must include 2 sequential electives	6 verified credits total: 2 English; 1 mathematics 1 science; 1 his./soc. sci. 1 student selected



Additional Local Graduation Requirements 8 VAC 20-131-50.A and 8 VAC 20-131-60.H

- Local school boards may request and receive permission from the Board to prescribe additional requirements for graduation.
- Local school boards may not deny a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma to any transfer student who has met the requirements for these diplomas if the student can meet the requirements only by taking a heavier than normal course load.
- Technical Assistance Document - June 25, 1998
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Accountability/gradguidance.pdf>




Standard Diploma Course Requirements 8 VAC 20-131-50.B

Standard units of credit begin with ninth grade class of 1998-1999. Verified units of credit begin with ninth grade class of 2000-01.

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Units of Credit Required
English	4	2
Mathematics*	3	1
Laboratory Science*	3	1
History & Social Sciences*	3	1
Health & Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1	
Electives*	6	
Student Selected Test*		1
TOTAL	22	

*Special provisions to be discussed
*Ninth graders in 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03, shall earn 2 English verified credits and 4 student selected verified credits




Courses That Satisfy Requirements for the Standard Diploma

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/webcrses.html>

or


*The School Administrator's Handbook of Course Codes, Position Codes and Licensure Endorsement Codes - July 2000
Page 49*

For copies of the course code book, contact Vernon Wildy, vwildy@mail.vak12ed.edu, 804-225-2877



Standard Diploma Special Provisions for Mathematics 8 VAC 20-131-50.B


- The three courses must:
 - Be at or above the level of algebra
 - Include at least two course selections from among
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - Algebra II or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra and geometry



Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Mathematics
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

Examples of course combinations that will satisfy the mathematics requirement for the Standard Diploma


• Algebra I, Part I	• Algebra I
• Algebra I, Part II	• Geometry, Part I
• Geometry	• Geometry, Part II
* * *	
• Algebra I, Part I	• Algebra I
• Algebra I, Part II	• Geometry
• Geometry, Part I	• Computer Mathematics
• Geometry, Part II	



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Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

- The **three courses** must include **course selections from at least two different science disciplines**
 - Earth Sciences
 - Biology
 - Chemistry or
 - Physics




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Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

Examples of course combinations that will satisfy the science requirement for the Standard Diploma


• Earth Science I	• Biology I
• Biology I	• Chemistry I, Part I
• Chemistry I	• Chemistry I, Part II
* * *	
• Earth Science I	• Earth Science I
• Biology I	• Biology I
• Biology II: (Ex., Advanced Survey OR Anatomy/Physiology OR Ecology OR Genetics)	• Earth Science II: (Ex., Advanced Survey OR Geology OR Oceanography OR Astronomy)



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Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for History and Social Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

- The **three courses** must include:
 - U.S. and Virginia History
 - U.S. and Virginia Government
 - One World History/Geography course from among:
 - World History
 - World Geography
 - World History and Geography Part I (or Part II)
 - World History and Geography
 - A Semester Course of World History Part I AND a Semester Course of World Geography




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Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Sequential Electives
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

- Beginning with the graduating class of 2003 (ninth graders in 1999-2000)
 - at least two sequential electives are required for the Standard (and Modified Standard) Diploma.
- Superintendent's Memorandum, Interpretive, No. 3, May 25, 2001

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>
Then click on "Supt's Memos"




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Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Student Selected Tests
8 VAC 20-131-50.B

- The **one student selected test*** for verified credit may come from:
 - Any end-of-course SOL test that is not already satisfying a required verified credit
 - Tests in computer science, technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Board

*Students entering the ninth grade in 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03 shall use four student selected tests to earn verified credits toward a Standard Diploma.



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**Standard Diploma
Special Provisions for Student Selected Tests
8 VAC 20-131-50.B**

- The Board has approved 63 career and technical education certification and licensure exams that may also be used to satisfy student selected verified credits
- The complete list:
Attachment A to Superintendent's Memorandum, Informational, No. 73, May 11, 2001:
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>
Then click on "Supt's Memos"



**Advanced Placement, College-Level, and
International Baccalaureate Courses
8 VAC 20-131-50.K**

Students who complete AP, college-level, or IB courses shall be deemed to have completed the requirements for graduation provided they have earned the required number of standard credits and verified credits.



**Substitute Tests
8 VAC 20-131-110.B and 8 VAC 20-131-50.L**

- The Board has approved additional tests that enable students to earn verified units of credit.
- Superintendent's Memorandum, Informational, No. 73, May 11, 2001:
Attachment A – contains the complete list
Attachment B – contains the form to nominate additional tests

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>
Then click on "Supt's Memos"
- Examples of these tests include:
 - Some AP tests
 - Some SAT II tests
 - Some CLER tests



**Substitute Tests
8 VAC 20-131-110.B and 8 VAC 20-131-50.L**

Students shall be counseled annually regarding the options for using substitute tests for earning verified credit and the consequences of failing to fulfill the obligation to complete the requirements for verified units of credit.



Advanced Studies Diploma

8 VAC 20-131-50.C



**Advanced Studies Diploma – Standard and
Verified Credit Requirements
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

Transitional requirements – Transfer options will be discussed later

Ninth graders in:	If graduate in 4 years:	Must earn # standard credits	Must earn # verified credits
1997-1998	2001	23	Must pass LPT; 0 verified credits
1998-1999 1999-2000	2002 2003	24	Must pass LPT; 0 verified credits
2000-2001 and beyond	2004 and beyond	24	9 verified credits total: 2 English 2 mathematics 2 science 2 history/social science 1 student selected



**Additional Local Graduation Requirements
8 VAC 20-131-50.A and 8 VAC 20-131-60.H**

- Same provisions as those for Standard Diploma
- Local school boards may request and receive permission from the Board to prescribe additional requirements for graduation.
- Local school boards may not deny a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma to any transfer student who has met the requirements for these diplomas if the student can meet the requirements only by taking a heavier than normal course load



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**Additional Local Graduation Requirements
8 VAC 20-131-50.A and 8 VAC 20-131-60.H**

- Special provisions for transfer students will be discussed later.
 - Technical Assistance Document on Local Graduation Requirements - June 25, 1998
- <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Accountability/gradguidance.pdf>



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Course Requirements
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

Standard units of credit begin with ninth grade class of 1998-1999. Verified units of credit begin with ninth grade class of 2000-01.

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Units of Credit Required
English	4	2
Mathematics*	4	2
Laboratory Science*	4	2
History & Social Sciences*	4	2
Foreign Language*	2	
Health & Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1	
Electives*	2	
Student Selected Test*		1
TOTAL	24	

*Special provisions to be discussed



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**Courses That Satisfy Requirements for
the Advanced Studies Diploma**

Same list as for Standard Diploma

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/webcrses.html>
or

The School Administrator's Handbook of Course Codes, Position Codes and Licensure Endorsement Codes - July 2000 Page 49

For copies of the course code book, contact Vernon Wildy, vwildy@mail.vak12ed.edu, 804-225-2877



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Mathematics
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

- The four courses must:
 - Be at or above the level of algebra
 - Include at least three different course selections from among
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - Algebra II or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Mathematics
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

Examples of course combinations that will satisfy the mathematics requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Algebra I, Part I | • Algebra I |
| • Algebra I, Part II | • Geometry |
| • Geometry | • Algebra II |
| • Algebra II | • Computer Mathematics |
| * * * | * * * |
| • Algebra I | • Algebra I, Part I |
| • Geometry, Part I | • Algebra I, Part II |
| • Geometry, Part II | • Geometry, Part I |
| • Algebra II | • Geometry, Part II |
| | • Algebra II |



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Mathematics
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

Examples of course combinations that will satisfy the mathematics requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma

- Algebra I/Geometry 3-year Sequence
- Algebra II

* * *

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Discrete Mathematics




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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

- The **four courses** must include course selections from at least **three different science disciplines**:
 - Earth Sciences
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

OR

Completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma also satisfies the science requirements.



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

Examples of course combinations that will satisfy the science requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Science I • Biology I • Chemistry I • Physics I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Science I • Biology I • Chemistry I • Earth Science II - (Ex., Astronomy)
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* * *


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Science I • Biology I • Chemistry I, Part I • Chemistry I, Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Science I • Biology I • Physics I • AP Biology
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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for History and Social Science
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

- The **four courses** must include:
 - U.S. and Virginia History
 - U.S. and Virginia Government
 - Two World History/Geography Courses; acceptable sequences include:
 - World History & World Geography
 - World History and Geography Part I & World History and Geography Part II
 - A Semester Course of World Geography & a Semester Course of World History Part I & a year-long course of World History Part II




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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Foreign Language
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

- The **three credit requirements** may be satisfied with either:
 - three years of one language

OR


 - two years each of two languages



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Student Selected Tests
8 VAC 20-131-50.C**

- The **one student selected test** may come from:
 - Any end-of-course SOL test that is not already satisfying a required verified credit
 - Tests in computer science, technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Board



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**Advanced Studies Diploma
Special Provisions for Student Selected Tests
8 VAC 20-131-50.B**

- The list of approved student selected tests is the same as for the Standard Diploma

Attachment A to Superintendent's Memorandum, Informational, No. 73, May 11, 2001:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>
Then click on "Supt's Memos"



**Advanced Placement, College-Level, and
International Baccalaureate Courses
8 VAC 20-131-50.K**

- Same as for Standard Diploma
- Students who complete AP, college-level, or IB courses shall be deemed to have completed the requirements for graduation provided they have earned the required number of standard credits and verified credits.



**Substitute Tests
8 VAC 20-131-110.B**

- Same as for Standard Diploma
- The Board has approved additional tests that enable students to earn verified units of credit. A list is available on the Internet:

Attachment A to Superintendent's Memorandum, Informational, No. 73, May 11, 2001:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us>
Then click on "Supt's Memos"



**Diploma Seal Options
8 VAC 20-131-50.I**

- Superintendent's Memorandum Administrative No. 14, March 23, 2001
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/2001/adm014.html>
- To order diploma seals, contact: Patricia Hicks
phicks@mail.vak12ed.edu
- Local Seals
 - Local school boards may define criteria for local seals or awards for exceptional academic, career and technical, citizenship, or other exemplary performance



**Diploma Seal Options (continued)
8 VAC 20-131-50.I**

- Board of Education Seal
 - Complete the requirements for a Standard Diploma with an average grade of "A"
- Students who entered the 9th grade prior to 2000-01
 - Will be allowed to earn the Board of Education Seal under the requirements in effect when they entered the 9th grade: An average grade of "B"




**Diploma Seal Options (continued)
8 VAC 20-131-50.I**

- Governor's Seal
 - Complete the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma with an average grade of "B" or better
- AND
- Successfully complete at least one AP or IB or college-level course for credit



Diploma Seal Options (continued)
8 VAC 20-131-50.1


- Career and Technical Seal
 - Earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma
- AND
- One of the following:
 - Complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization and maintain a "B" or better average in those courses
 - OR
 - Pass an examination in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association
 - OR
 - Acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia



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Diploma Seal Options (continued)
8 VAC 20-131-50.1

- Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology
 - Earn a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma
 - Satisfy all the mathematics requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma (four units of credit including Algebra II; two verified units of credit)
- AND
- One of the following:
 - Pass an examination in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association
 - OR
 - Acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia
 - OR
 - Pass an examination approved by the Board that confers college-level credit in a technology or computer science area




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Diploma Seal Options (continued)
8 VAC 20-131-50.1

- Lists of trade, industry, and professional licenses and certifications that satisfy these requirements are on the Internet at:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/CTE>
Click on "Seals of Achievement"




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Secondary School Transcript Regulations

8 VAC 20-160-10 et seq.


Also referenced in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)*
8 VAC 20-131-60.1 and



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Recent Revisions to Secondary School Transcript Regulations


- Approved by the Board of Education - September 26, 2001
- Changes in Definitions
 - "credit" - a standard or a verified credit as specified in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)*



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Recent Revisions to Secondary School Transcript Regulations

- Changes in Definitions (cont.)
 - "secondary school transcript" - an official list of secondary courses taken by a student except those purged from a middle school record in accordance with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)*, showing the final grade received for each course, with definitions of the various grades given



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Recent Revisions to *Secondary School Transcript Regulations*

- **Additional provisions**
 - Accreditation status of a high school
 - shall not be included on the *student transcript* or on the *school profile data sheet*
 - Type of diploma, to include
 - Advanced Studies
 - Other Diploma Authorized by the Board of Education



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Recent Revisions to *Secondary School Transcript Regulations*

- **Additional provisions**
 - Test record
 - shall not include Standards of Learning test scores
 - Add to the transcript
 - Total verified credits earned
 - Delete from the transcript
 - Passing score



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Recent Revisions to *Secondary School Transcript Regulations*

- **Additional information will be released through a Superintendent's Memorandum**
- **DOE contact:**
 - Vernon Wildy
 - 804-225-2877
 - vwildy@mail.vak12ed.edu



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Web Sites Mentioned in Today's Broadcast

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Accountability/accreditation.htm>

Then scroll to "*Graduation Requirements*" about half way down the page



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For Further Information

- **Dr. Linda Wallinger**
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lwalling@pen.k12.va.us
- **Delores Dalton Dunn**
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- **Colleen Bryant**
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804-786-4640 or
cbryant@mail.vak12ed.edu
- **Deborah Kiger Lyman**
Mathematics Specialist
804-786-6418 or
dlyman@mail.vak12ed.edu



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Modified Standard Diploma Graduation Requirements for Virginia Public Schools

Mr. Doug Cox
Assistant Superintendent
Instructional Support Services



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma.

- 1. The Modified Standard Diploma program is intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team and the student, where appropriate, at any point after the student's eighth grade year.



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma.

- 2. The school must secure the informed written consent of the parent/guardian and the student to choose this diploma program after review of the student's academic history and the full disclosure of the student's options.
- 3. The student who has chosen to pursue a Modified Standard Diploma shall also be allowed to pursue the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma at any time throughout that student's high school career. The student must not be excluded from courses and tests required to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma.

- 4. Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2000-01, students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma shall pass literacy and numeracy competency assessments prescribed by the Board. For 2000-01 ninth graders and below this assessment will be the grade eight SOL test in English and math. For 2000-01 tenth graders and above the assessment will be the LPT.



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Modified Standard Diploma.

• Units of Credit Required

• English	4
• Mathematics ¹	3
• Science ²	2
• History and Social Science ³	2
• Health and Physical Education	2
• Fine or Practical Arts	1
• Electives ⁴	6
• Total	20



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Modified Standard Diploma.

- ¹Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and statistics in courses that have been approved by the Board.
- ²Courses 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.



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8 VAC 20-131-50 D. Modified Standard Diploma

• Modified Standard Diploma.

- ³Courses 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.
- ⁴Beginning with the graduating class of 2003, courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives in the same manner required for the Standard Diploma.
- ⁶The student must meet any additional criteria established by the Board.



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SOA Implications for Counselors

Office of Accreditation

Director: Cheri Magill
Accreditation Specialists: Ed Holstrom and Jan Callis

- Transfer of Credits
 - K through 10th grade
 - 11th or 12th grade
 - From another VA public school
 - From private or home school
- Other Credits
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Off-Site Instruction



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- A. For the purposes of this section, the term "beginning" means within the first 20 hours of instruction per course. The term "during" means after the first 20 hours of instruction per course.
- C. Standard or verified units of credit earned by a student in a Virginia public school shall be transferable, without limitation, regardless of the accreditation status of the Virginia public school in which the credits were earned.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- B. A secondary school shall accept credits received from other accredited secondary schools, including schools accredited through the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). The Board will maintain contact with the VCPE to review its accrediting procedures and policies on a periodic basis as part of its policies under this section.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- B. (continued) Students transferring into a Virginia public school shall be required to meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50 to receive a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma, except as provided in subsection F of this section. To receive a Special Diploma or Certificate of Program Completion, a student must meet the requirements prescribed by the [Standards of Quality, §22.1-253.13:4](#).



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- D. Records of transferred students shall be sent directly to the school receiving the student, upon request of the receiving school, in accordance with the provisions of the 8 VAC 20-150-10 et seq., *Management of the Student's Scholastic Records in Virginia*.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- E. The academic record of a student transferring into Virginia public schools from other than a Virginia public school, shall be evaluated to determine the number of standard units of credit that have been earned, including units of credit from schools outside the United States, and the number of verified units of credit needed to graduate in accordance with subsection F of this section.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- E. (continued) Virginia public schools shall accept standard and verified units of credit from other Virginia public schools and state-operated programs. Standard units of credit also shall be accepted for courses satisfactorily completed in accredited colleges and universities when prior written approval of the principal has been granted or the student has been given credit by the previous school attended.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

1. For a Standard Diploma:
 - a. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time during the ninth grade or at the beginning of the tenth grade shall earn credits as prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50;



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

2. For an Advanced Studies Diploma:
 - a. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time during the ninth grade or at the beginning of the tenth grade shall earn credit as prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50;



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- B. Students transferring into a Virginia public school shall be required to meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50 to receive a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma, except as provided in subsection F of this section. To receive a Special Diploma or Certificate of Program Completion, a student must meet the requirements prescribed by the [Standards of Quality, §22.1-253.13:4](#).



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- C. Standard or verified units of credit earned by a student in a Virginia public school shall be transferable, without limitation, regardless of the accreditation status of the Virginia public school in which the credits were earned.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- E. Virginia public schools shall accept standard and verified units of credit from other Virginia public schools and state-operated programs. Standard units of credit also shall be accepted for courses satisfactorily completed in accredited colleges and universities when prior written approval of the principal has been granted or the student has been given credit by the previous school attended.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

H. Any local school division receiving approval to increase its course credit requirements for a diploma may not deny either the Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma to any transfer student who has otherwise met the requirements contained in these standards if the transfer student can only meet the division's additional 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 otherwise would have graduated.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

B. A secondary school shall accept credits received from other accredited secondary schools, including schools accredited through the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). The Board will maintain contact with the VCPE to review its accrediting procedures and policies on a periodic basis as part of its policies under this section.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

E. The academic record of a student transferring into Virginia public schools from other than a Virginia public school, shall be evaluated to determine the number of standard units of credit that have been earned, including units of credit from schools outside the United States, and the number of verified units of credit needed to graduate in accordance with subsection F of this section.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

E. (continued) Students transferring above the tenth grade from schools or other education programs that do not require or give credit for health and physical education shall not be required to take these courses to meet graduation requirements.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

F. Students entering a Virginia public high school for the first time after the tenth grade shall be encouraged to earn as many credits as possible toward the graduation requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

F. (continued) However, no such student shall earn fewer than the following number of verified units, nor shall such student be required to take SOL tests or other additional tests defined in 8 VAC 20-131-110.B. for verified units of credit in courses previously completed at another school or program of study, unless necessary to meet the requirements listed in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection.



Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

1. For a Standard Diploma:
 - b. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time . . . at the beginning of the eleventh grade shall earn a minimum of four verified units of credit: one each in English, mathematics, history, and science; except that during the transition period 2000-01 through 2002-03, students shall earn one in English and three of the student's own choosing; and



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

1. For a Standard Diploma (continued):
 - c. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time during the eleventh grade or at the beginning of the twelfth grade shall earn a minimum of two verified units of credit: one in English and one of the student's choosing.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

2. For an Advanced Studies Diploma:
 - b. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time . . . at the beginning of the eleventh grade shall earn a minimum of six verified units of credit: two in English and one each in mathematics, history, and science and one of the student's choosing;



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.F.

2. For an Advanced Studies Diploma (continued):
 - c. Students entering a Virginia high school for the first time during the eleventh grade or at the beginning of the twelfth grade shall earn a minimum of four verified units of credit: one in English and three of the student's choosing.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60

- G. Students transferring after 20 instructional hours per course of their senior or twelfth grade year shall be given every opportunity to earn a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma.



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Transfer of Credits 8 VAC 20-131-60.G.

- If it is not possible for the student to meet the requirements for a diploma, arrangements should be made for the student's previous school to award the diploma.
- If these arrangements cannot be made, a waiver of the verified unit of credit requirements may be available to the student. The Department of Education may grant such waivers upon request by the local school board in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Board.



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College Preparation Programs and Postsecondary Credit 8 VAC 20-131-140

- Beginning in the middle school years, students must be counseled on opportunities for earning postsecondary credit before graduation.
- **Dual enrollment:** Conditions for simultaneously taking courses for high school graduation and college degree credit:
 - prior written approval of the principal;
 - college must accept the student for admission to the course or courses; and
 - courses must be given for college degree credit.



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Off-Site Instruction 8 VAC 20-131-180

- B. **Correspondence courses:** Students may enroll in, and earn *standard units of credit*, for supervised correspondence courses with prior approval of the principal when:

- the course is the equivalent to that offered in the division and
- the work is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher or a person eligible to hold a Virginia license and is approved by the local school board.

Verified units of credit may be earned when the requirements listed above are met and the student passes the SOL test associated with the completed correspondence course.



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Off-Site Instruction 8 VAC 20-131-180

- C. Schools are encouraged to pursue alternative means for delivering instruction. Standard and verified units of credit may be earned when:
- the course is equivalent to that offered in the regular school program;
 - the work is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher, or a person eligible to hold a Virginia teaching license and approved by the local school board; and
 - student passes applicable EOC test or other approved test.

The local school board shall adopt policies governing this method of delivery of instruction.



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