

LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS

The Alexandria City School Board will award verified credits to students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1, 2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 toward a standard diploma in science and history/social sciences to students entering ninth grade in accordance with this policy.

No student may earn more than four locally awarded verified credits except as noted below.

To be eligible to earn locally awarded verified credits, a student must:

- Pursue a standard diploma;
- Pass the high school course and not pass the related Standards of Learning test;
- Take the Standards of Learning test at least twice;
- Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test; and
- Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through the appeal process outlined below.

Locally Awarded Verified Credits as Credit Accommodations

In addition to verified credits in science and history/social sciences, the School Board may also award verified credits toward a standard diploma in reading, writing, and mathematics to students with disabilities at any point after the student's eighth-grade year as credit accommodations for the standard diploma. To be eligible for such credit accommodations, students with disabilities must meet all criteria established by State law and eligibility for such credit accommodations must be established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

The student must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive credit accommodations for the Standard Diploma:

- a. Student must have a current IEP or 504 plan with standards-based goals.
- b. Student must have a disability that precludes him or her from achieving and progressing commensurate with grade-level expectations, but is learning on grade-level content.
- c. Student needs significant instructional supports to access grade-level Standards of Learning (SOL) content and to show progress.
- d. Based on multiple objective measures of past performance, student might not be expected to achieve the required standard and verified units of credit within the standard time frame.

There is no maximum number of locally awarded verified credits that a student with a disability may earn toward a standard diploma.

Appeal Process

If a student wishes to appeal a determination about locally awarded verified credits, the School Board will appoint a review panel comprised of at least three educators. The Superintendent will nominate the panel members.

The local review panel will review information that provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The Superintendent will determine what type of information the student must submit to the panel for review. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assignments, ~~4~~Division-wide exams, course grades, and additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essays or written questions).

Based on the evidence it reviews, the local review panel may:

- Award the verified credit;
- Deny the verified credit;
- ~~Require~~Suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting; or
- Make additional academic assignments prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

The decision of the local review panel is final.

Adopted: November 21, 2002

Amended: July 1, 2005

Amended: May 14, 2015

Amended:

Legal Refs: [8VAC20-131-110. Standard and Verified Units of Credi](#)

[8VAC20-131-5. Definitions.](#)

[8VAC20-131-50. Requirements for Graduation](#)

[Guidelines for Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities \(Virginia Department of Education March 28, 2013\) \(attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 105-13 \(Apr. 19, 2013\)\).](#)

[Additional Guidance on Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities July 2013 \(Attachment A to Superintendent's Memo No. 191-13 issued July 26, 2013\)](#)

[Guidelines for Local School Boards to Award Verified Credits for the Standard Diploma to Transition Students \(attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 52 \(Aug. 9, 2002\)\), as amended by the Board of Education October 25, 2006.](#)

| Cross Refs.: IKFA-R Locally Awarded Verified Credits

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