

1     **THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**  
2

3     In accordance with the Virginia Board of Education’s *Regulations Establishing Standards for*  
4     *Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131-30, 8VAC20-131-110), the following  
5     policy has been established.  
6

7     The Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) has established educational objectives known as the  
8     Standards of Learning (SOLs), which form the core of Virginia’s educational program, and other  
9     education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are  
10    necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years beyond.  
11

12    The Alexandria City School Board (Board) has developed and implemented a program of  
13    instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets VBOE requirements of the  
14    Virginia Board of Education. It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including  
15    students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the  
16    requirements prescribed by the VBOE.  
17

18    The Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations. The  
19    requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from high school are those in effect  
20    when the student enters ninth grade for the first time.  
21

22    **Children of Certain Federal Employees**

23    In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of federal employees serving under orders  
24    pursuant to Title 22 or 50 of the United States Code enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, the  
25    Superintendent or designee

- 26       • waives specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been  
27       satisfactorily completed in a local education agency in the state from which the child is  
28       sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought or provides reasonable justification for denial  
29       of such waiver. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate in the  
30       state from which the student is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought, the school  
31       division provides an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation  
32       may occur on time; and
- 33       • accepts, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in Virginia, (i) exit or end-of-course  
34       exams required for graduation from the state from which the student is sent, brought, or  
35       caused to be sent or brought, (ii) national norm-referenced achievement tests, or (iii)  
36       alternative testing acceptable in Virginia.

37    The parent serving under orders pursuant to Title 22 or 50 of the United States Code must present  
38    documents indicating that the parent is required to move in order to perform the parent’s job  
39    responsibilities and such move results in the student’s relocation to the school division.  
40

41    **Virginia Assessment Program**  
42

43    The Virginia Board of Education requires the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests  
44    in third through eighth grade. Each student is expected to take the applicable tests following  
45    instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest grade level,  
46    following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in any content area in

47 each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8 VAC 20-131-30. Schools  
48 will use the test results in third through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for  
49 determining the promotion or retention of students.

50  
51 A standard unit of credit for world languages may be awarded based on a waiver of the 140 clock  
52 hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD.

53  
54 Upon demonstration of mastery of course content and objectives, the Superintendent or designee  
55 may recommend that qualified students may receive a standard unit(s) of credit and be permitted  
56 to sit for the relevant SOL Assessment to earn a verified credit(s) without having to meet the 140  
57 clock hour requirement, in accordance with Policy IGBG.

58  
59 Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) shall participate in the Virginia Assessment  
60 Program. Additionally, students with disabilities shall be assessed in accordance with state and  
61 federal guidelines. Provisions regarding the participation level of EL students, and any necessary  
62 accommodations for students with disabilities are outlined in Regulation IKF-R.

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64  
65 Adopted: January 9, 1997  
66 Amended: May 20, 2004  
67 Amended: July 1, 2005  
68 Amended: June 1, 2006  
69 Amended: April 15, 2015  
70 Amended: June 23, 2016  
71 Amended: December 15, 2016  
72 Amended: April 26, 2018

- 73  
74  
75 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.  
76  
77 8 VAC 20-131-5.  
78 8 VAC 20-131-30.  
79 8 VAC 20-131-40.  
80 8 VAC 20-131-50.  
81 8 VAC 20-131-51.  
82 8 VAC 20-131-110.

83  
84 Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard  
85 Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015).

- 86  
87 Cross Refs.: IAA Notification of Learning Objectives  
88 IGBF English Learners  
89 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction  
90 IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs  
91 IKEB Acceleration

92	IKF-R	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
93		Regulations
94	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
95	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit:
96		Credit-by-Exam for World Languages
97	IKFD-R	Credit-by-Exam for World Languages Regulations
98	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments

DRAFT

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3 **Generally**

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18 requirements prescribed by the VBOE.

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20 The School Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations.  
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43 **Virginia Assessment Program**

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46 in third through eighth grade. Each student is expected to take the applicable tests following

**Commented [1]:** Per the 2023 amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:3 by HB 2225/SB 1253.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1929>

**Commented [2]:** What about transcripts from international schools. e.g., parents are diplomats and/or military?

**Commented [3]:** Great question. The code only says state. That being said, I would hope that ACPS would do the same for students attending schools. The code is linked below. overseas. <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0783>

**Commented [4]:** As ACPS offers World Language Credit by Exam would it be fair to request these students to take the exam and receive credit based on their proficiency level as it is stated in the policy IKFD? It is very difficult to assess proficiency and award credit from international schools that do not offer high school credit.

**Commented [5]:** I'm going to defer to whomever reviews transcript from overseas students. They are likely faced with this challenge on a daily basis.

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