

ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO ATTAINING STANDARD UNITS OF CREDIT

In order to be awarded a diploma, secondary school students are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Virginia Board of Education. A “standard credit of credit” or “standard credit” is awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction the requirements of the course. The Alexandria City School Board (Board) recognizes that instruction, learning and outcomes equivalent to those achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction can be attained in a variety of ways. Therefore, the Board waives the requirement that a student receive 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit as provided below. The total number of standard credits that can be achieved via the waiver option is 4. Students may earn fractional credits via the waiver.

Waiver Options

- A maximum of four (4) standard (world language) credits can be achieved via the credit-by-exam option by students in grades 6-12. If successful, students will receive a “pass” grade for the equivalent course(s), which will appear as a “P” on transcripts to signify the levels have been successfully completed. Students will not receive a letter grade that will impact their grade point average (GPA). Standard credits achieved through this option are considered equal to any other standard credit in terms of class rank, grade point average, extracurricular eligibility, and high school transcripts. The Board pays for the cost of the examinations.

Pursuit of credit-by-exam by students with Individualized Education Programs and/or 504 plans will be prescribed by the student's program/plan.

Full implementation guidance for this policy is found in Regulation IKFD-R.

Adopted: April 26, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-110

Cross Refs.:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IGBG	Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
	IGBGA	Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
	IGBF	English Learners
	IKEB	Acceleration
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKF-R	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements Regulations
	IKFD-R	Credit-By-Exam for World Languages Regulations
	JO	Student Records

**ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO ATTAINING STANDARD UNITS OF CREDIT:
CREDIT-BY-EXAM FOR WORLD LANGUAGES**

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) complies with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, including the awarding of standard and verified units of credit. In order to be awarded a diploma, secondary school students are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Virginia Board of Education. The award of a “standard credit of credit” or “standard credit” is awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes for a high school course is based on 140 clock hours of instruction and completing the requirements of the course, as further detailed in Policy IKF and Regulation IKF-R. However, the Alexandria City School Board (Board) recognizes that instruction, learning and outcomes equivalent to those achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction can be attained in a variety of ways. Therefore, the School Board waives the requirement that a student receive permits the awarding of standard credit without 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit as provided below. The total number of standard credits that can be achieved via the waiver option is 4. Students may earn fractional credits via the waiver, when students with the ability to comprehend and communicate in languages other than English demonstrate achievement via Division approved national or international assessments (credit-by-exam).

Commented [1]: Alignment with the VSBA model policy

Waiver Options

- A maximum of ~~four three (43)~~ standard (world language) credits can be achieved via the credit-by-exam option by students in grades 6-12. If successful, students will receive a “pass” grade for the equivalent course(s), which will appear as a “P” on transcripts to signify the levels have been successfully completed. Students will not receive a letter grade that will impact their grade point average (GPA). Standard credits achieved through this option are considered equal to any other standard credit in terms of class rank, grade point average, extracurricular eligibility, and high school transcripts. The Board pays for the cost of the examinations.

Commented [2]: The code permits essentially any course to be awarded via waiver. Its and ACPS decision to establish the scope.

From the VSBA model
Waivers are available for all secondary courses including Board of Education approved courses, Career and Technical education courses and local elective courses.

Commented [3]: This allows students to earn two credits in each of two languages, allowing them to meet the requirement for an advanced studies diploma.

Pursuit of credit-by-exam by students ~~with disabilities with Individualized Education Programs and/or 504 plans~~ will be prescribed by the student's ~~program/plan Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.~~

Full implementation guidance for this policy is found in Regulation IKFD-R.

Adopted: April 26, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.

~~8 VAC 20-131-110 (Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia). Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit, Virginia Board of Education (Oct. 2015).~~

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48	Cross Refs.:	IAA Notification of Learning Objectives
49		IGBG Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
50		IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
51		IGBF English Learners
52		IKEB Acceleration
53		IKF The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
54		IKF-R The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
55		Regulations
56		IKFD-R Credit-By-Exam for World Languages Regulations
57		JO Student Records

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