

LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS (LAVC)

- I. The Alexandria City School Board ~~will awards~~ 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.~~ in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science in accordance with Virginia Board of Education regulations and guidance.

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

Students who entered ninth grade for the first time before the 2018-2019 school year may be awarded up to three locally awarded verified credits. Such students may only apply locally awarded verified credits toward a standard diploma.

Students who enter ninth grade for the first time during or after the 2018-2019 school year may be awarded one locally awarded verified credit. Such students may apply the locally awarded verified credit toward either a standard or advanced studies diploma.

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 after taking the test at least twice; and
- Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through the appeal process outlined below.

1-II. Locally Awarded Verified Credits (LAVC) as Credit Accommodations

Students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations shall not be subject to the limit on the number of locally awarded verified credits.

Students with disabilities who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 that require more than three LAVC in any subject must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.

Students with disabilities entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond that require more than one LAVC must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.

In addition to verified credits in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science, ~~science and history/social sciences,~~ the School Board may also award verified credits toward a standard diploma in reading and, 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:

- The student must have a current IEP or 504 plan with standards-based goals;
- The 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;
- The student needs significant instructional supports to access grade-level Standards of Learning (SOL) content and to show progress; and
- Based on multiple objective measures of past performance, the student might not be expected to achieve the required standard and verified units of credit within the standard time frame.

2.1.Special Permission Credit Accommodation for Locally Awarded Verified Credit (SPCA-LAVC)

Students with disabilities who have earned a scaled score below 375 on a Standards of Learning test and have met certain other eligibility requirements may also earn a verified credit through the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE's) Special Permission Credit Accommodation (SPCA).

The Special Permission Credit Accommodation allows ACPS to grant locally awarded verified credits in reading, writing, mathematics, science and history to certain students with disabilities. Eligible students must:

- pass the high school course based on a non-modified curriculum;
- score below 375 on the SOL test;
- have a documented disability that presents a unique or significant challenge to the degree that the student is unable to demonstrate knowledge of the course content on the SOL test using available accommodations; and
- demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level.

Consideration of a Special Permission Credit Accommodation is determined through the IEP and/or 504 review process, and documented in accordance with VDOE requirements, including:

- the disability that prevents the student from fully demonstrating his/her knowledge of the course content on the SOL test even with accommodations; and

- evidence of the use or consideration of other credit accommodations and other substitute assessment options.

Upon review of the documentation, VDOE determines whether a Special Permission Credit Accommodation is warranted. VDOE will respond that either:

- Based on the information provided, ACPS may move forward with its local policy and procedures for awarding the locally awarded verified credit; or
- The information provided is insufficient to complete the review.

VDOE will also include comments in its response.

~~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. In addition, whenever a Special Permission Credit Accommodation is being considered, the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction will be included on the panel. The Superintendent will nominate the panel members. Different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools.

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 panel will have discretion in determine-determining what type-of-the information the student must submit to the panel for review-it will consider. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assignments, divisionwide exams, course grades, and additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essays or written questions) as the panel deems appropriate.

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

- Award the verified credit;
- Deny the verified credit;
- 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: October 27, 2016

Amended:

Legal Refs: [Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.](#)

8 VAC_20-131-5. Definitions

8 VAC_20-131-50. Requirements for Graduation

8 VAC_20-131-110. Standard and Verified Units of Credit

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)

[Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia 8 VAC 20-131 \(as amended by the Board of Education January 13, 2011\).](#)

[Revised Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits \(Virginia Department of Education May 11, 2018\) \(attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 130-18 \(May 11, 2018\)\).](#)

~~[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

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