~~STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS, VERIFIED UNITS OF CREDIT, AND DIPLOMA CLASSIFICATIONS~~ THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. ~~Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments and Verified Units of Credit~~ **Generally**

~~A.~~ In accordance with the ~~State~~ Virginia Board of Education's *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131-30, 8VAC20-131-110), the following policy has been established.

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

The Alexandria City School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets BOE requirements. It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the BOE.

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

II. Virginia Assessment Program

The Board of Education requires the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests ~~i~~In third through eighth grade. ~~where Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments are administered,~~ ~~e~~Each student ~~shall be~~is expected to take the ~~SOL Assessments~~ applicable tests following instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest grade level, following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8 VAC 20-131-30. Schools will use the ~~SOL Assessment~~ test results in third through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

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

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

~~All Limited English Proficient (LEP)~~ Any students identified as an English Learner (EL) shall participate in the Virginia Aassessment Pprogram. Additionally, students with disabilities shall be assessed in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Provisions regarding the participation level of EL students, and any necessary accommodations for students with disabilities are outlined in Regulation IKF-R.

(*The text below has been moved to the regulation.)

~~B. Each student in middle and high school shall take all applicable end of course SOL Assessments following course instruction. 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 are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education and as described below. Students who achieve a passing score on an end of course SOL Assessment and a passing grade for the course shall be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course. Students may earn verified units of credit in any course for which end-of-course SOL Assessments are available.~~

~~D. Students may earn verified credits by taking substitute assessments approved by the State Board of Education that may be used in lieu of a Standards of Learning Assessment to obtain verified credit. The State Board of Education will set the score that must be achieved to earn a verified unit of credit on the additional assessment options.~~

~~**I. Graduation Requirements**~~

~~A. In order to graduate from ACPS, a student must meet all applicable requirements set forth in the Standards of Accreditation, the Standards of Quality, and the current Program of Studies. These are reflected in Regulation IKF-R. The requirements for a student to earn a diploma are those in effect when he or she enters the ninth grade for the first time.~~

~~B. Notification~~

~~ACPS will notify the parent/guardian of rising eleventh-and twelfth-grade students of:~~

~~1. the number of standard and verified units of credit required for graduation pursuant to the Standards of Accreditation; and~~

~~2. the remaining number of such units of credit the individual student requires for graduation.~~

~~**III. Types of Verified Credit Diplomas Offered in Alexandria City Public Schools**~~

~~ACPS will offer two verified credit diplomas:~~

A. Advanced Studies Diploma

B. Standard Diploma

ACPS shall award an Advanced Studies or Standard Diploma to any student who successfully completes the applicable requirements for these diplomas set forth in the Standards of Accreditation, the Standards of Quality, and the current Program of Studies. These are reflected in Regulation IKF-R.

IV. Alternatives to Verified Credit Diplomas (Including Special Education and Adult Education Programs)

Special Education Alternatives

In addition to the Advanced Studies and Standard Diplomas, ACPS offers two additional options to Students with Disabilities:

A. Modified Standard Diploma

ACPS shall award a Modified Standard Diploma to each student with a disability who successfully completes the credit requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma, as set forth in the Standards of Accreditation, and who meets any additional criteria established by the Virginia Board of Education. Students who enter the 9th grade for the first time in 2013-14 or beyond are not eligible to graduate with a Modified Standard Diploma. For younger students, that option has been removed by the State of Virginia. The requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma are included in the current Program of Studies and are reflected in Regulation IKF-R.

B. Applied Studies Diploma

ACPS shall award an Applied Studies Diploma to each student with a disability who successfully completes the requirements set forth in his/her IEP (Individualized Education Program) but does not meet the requirements for other diplomas.

Adult Education Alternatives

For students 18 years or older, the Office of Adult Education offers the following three Adult Education programs:

A.   General Educational Development (GED) Certificate

The Board of Education has established a program for testing for General Educational Development (GED) through which persons may earn a high school equivalency certificate.

Under no circumstances shall persons under the age of 16 be eligible for the General Educational Development testing program.

B.   General Achievement Adult High School Diploma (GAAHSD)

The GAAHSD Program is intended to provide a diploma option for individuals who are least 18 years of age, currently not enrolled in public education, and not subject to the attendance requirements of the Code of Virginia, § 22.1-254. The requirements for the GAAHSD are reflected in Regulation IKF-R.

C.   Adult High School Diploma Program

The Adult High School Diploma Program enables an adult who is no longer enrolled in public education to complete the required coursework to earn an Adult High School Diploma, a credential approved by the Virginia Board of Education. The requirements for the Adult High School Diploma are reflected in Regulation IKF-R.

Adopted: January 9, 1997
Amended: May 20, 2004
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: June 1, 2006
Amended: April 15, 2015
Amended: June 23, 2016
Amended: December 15, 2016
Amended:

Legal Refs.:   Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4
                8 VAC 20-131-5
                8 VAC 20-131-30
                8 VAC 20-131-40
                8 VAC 20-131-50
                8 VAC 20-131-51
                8 VAC 20-131-110

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

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

IKF-R	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements ~~Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit, and Diploma Classification~~ Regulations
IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit: Credit-by-Exam for World Languages
IKFD-R	Credit-by-Exam for World Languages Regulations
IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments