

STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS, VERIFIED UNITS OF CREDIT, AND DIPLOMA CLASSIFICATIONS

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

- A. In accordance with the State 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.

In third through eighth grade, where Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments are administered, each student shall be expected to take the SOL Assessments. Schools will use the SOL Assessment results in third through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

- 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.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and demonstration of mastery of course content and objectives, qualified students may receive a standard unit of credit and be permitted to sit for the relevant SOL Assessment to earn a verified credit without having to meet the 140-clock-hour requirement.
- 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.
- E. All Limited English Proficient (LEP) students shall participate in the Virginia assessment program. Additionally, students with disabilities shall be assessed in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

II. 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:

Legal Refs.: [Code of Virginia](#), 1950, as amended, sections [22.1-253.13:1](#),
~~[22.1-253.13:3](#)~~, ~~[22.1-253.13:4](#)~~, ~~[22.1-254 \(D\)](#)~~, ~~[22.1-254.2](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.](#)~~
[8 VAC 20-131-30](#)
~~[8 VAC 20-131-50](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-131-110](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-360-10](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-360-20](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-680-10](#)~~
~~[8 VAC 20-680-20](#)~~

~~Legislative Mandate: House Bill 930 and Senate Bill 306 (2014-2015)~~

Cross Refs.:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IKF-R	Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit, and Diploma Classification Regulations
	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits