

*** ORANGE TEXT REFLECTS CHANGES MADE SINCE THE 5/15/20 VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING.**

LOCALLY-AWARDED VERIFIED CREDIT (LAVC) REGULATIONS

I. Generally

In accordance with Policy IKFA, the Alexandria City School Board awards verified credits in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science as authorized by state law and Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) regulations and guidance.

II. LAVC as Credit Accommodations

Students with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria established by state law or VBOE regulations may be eligible for LAVC as credit accommodations as established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. In addition to the content areas listed above, the School Board may also award verified credits toward a standard diploma in reading and writing to students with disabilities at any point after the student's eighth-grade year as credit accommodations for the standard diploma.

The criteria and process for awarding LAVC as credit accommodations, including Special Permission Locally--Awarded Verified Credit Accommodations (SPCA-LAVC-A), are outlined in Policy IKFA.

III. LAVC Determinations

LAVC determinations are made by review panels appointed for individual schools or groups of schools. They consider evidence of a student's achievement of adequate knowledge of SOL content when the student:

- Passes the high school course but does not pass the related Standards of Learning (SOL) test; and
- Scores within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning (SOL) test after taking the test at least twice.

Review pPanel members will consist of:include:

- The T.C. Williams test coordinator or representative of the Department of Accountability;
- The Director of Counseling and the appropriate counselor;
- The student's administrator and school principal; ~~and the~~
- The Executive Director of Secondary Instruction; and
- At least three educators (2019-20 school year)-

Whenever an LAVC is being considered as a credit accommodation, the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction ~~will be~~ also included on the panel.

Information to be collected and presented by the student's counselor to the panel ~~will~~ includes:

- (1) Classroom assignments;
- (2) Course grade(s); and
- (3) Papers, projects, essays, and written assignments.

The panel ~~should~~ takes into consideration that a student might not have kept assignments from a teacher. Failure to provide (1) or (3) above will not exclude a student from receiving the credit. However, the panel may require additional academic assignments or testing to determine adequate knowledge of ~~Standards of Learning~~ SOL content.

Based on the evidence reviewed, review panels 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 review panel is final.

IV. LAVC Determinations During the 2020 Public Health Emergency School Closure (COVID-19)

A. Background

In accordance with the *Emergency Guidelines for Locally-Awarded Verified Credits* adopted by the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) on April 2, 2020, **Section IV. of this regulation outlines the a modified LAVC determination process is in-effect for students who:**

- are scheduled to graduate in 2021 or after; and
- are enrolled in high school credit-bearing courses with ~~an end-of-course SOL assessments~~ in which students were enrolled during the spring 2020 semester.

(If a declared state of emergency overlaps scheduled instruction for the summer 2020 term, the modified LAVC determination process also applies to courses during the summer 2020 term.)

The resulting changes in LAVC award determinations are intended to:

- Address the “cessation of all in-person instruction” at Virginia schools from March 16, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year as mandated by Executive Order 53 (March 23, 2020);
- Align with the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction’s waiver of end-of-course SOL testing requirements for spring 2020 as authorized by Executive Order 51 (March 12, 2020); and
- Ensure maximum flexibility and benefit for ACPS students.

LAVCs awarded under the emergency guidelines may be used to meet verified credit requirements towards either the standard or advanced studies diploma, regardless of graduation cohort. Further, LAVCs provided under the emergency guidelines do not count towards the maximum allowance in either 8 VAC 20-131-50 or 8 VAC 20-131-51 under the Virginia Standards of Accreditation (SOA).

Students eligible for a Special Permission Locally-Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPCA-LAVC-A) will continue to use the IEP/504 process as outlined in Policy IKFA.

B. LAVC Review Panels

In accordance with the emergency guidelines for the 2019-20 school year, each ACPS school that teaches high school credit-bearing courses will expand the review panel membership (outlined in Section III. above) to include the following staff members:

- Administrator (principal or designee);
- Director of Counseling (T.C. Williams, George Washington, and Francis Hammond) or Assistant Principal (Patrick Henry and Jefferson-Houston);
- Student Testing Coordinator or Department of Accountability representative;
- School Counselor;
- Lead Teacher/Department Chair: Specialized Instruction;
- Lead Teacher /Department Chair: English Learners;
- At least three content teachers.
 - At least one teacher currently teaches the course/content area(s) being reviewed by the panel (English, math, science and history/social science).

C. Review Process

Based upon the *Emergency Guidance* recommendations, school review panels will review the following information to determine whether *all students in a course* were provided with instruction *in a majority* of the course standards *and demonstrated mastery* of the standards, competencies, and objectives of the entire course:

- The content and standards covered in a course during the 2019-2020 school year as well as the teacher's course expectations; and
- The students' grades in the course;

School review panels may award LAVCs to all students in the course with passing grades. (Passing grades for the 2019-20 school year may be based upon the average of Quarters 1-3 or Quarters 1-4 in accordance with Policy IKC and Regulation IKC-R.)

Based on the evidence reviewed, review panels may:

- Award the verified credit;
- Deny the verified credit;
- Suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting; or
- Make additional academic assignments as deemed appropriate prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

The decision of the review panel is final.

D. Documentation

School review panel determinations will be documented and submitted to Technology Services for upload to PowerSchool.

Adopted: December 19, 2002
Revised: July 1, 2005
Revised: October 27, 2016
Revised: May 9, 2019
Revised:

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-50.
8 VAC 20-131-51.
8 VAC 20-131-110.

Emergency Guidelines: Locally-Awarded Verified Credits, Virginia Board of Education (April 2, 2020).

Guidance on Graduation Requirements, Awarding of Credits, and Continuity of

[Learning, Virginia Department of Education \(April 1, 2020\).](#)

[Executive Order 53 \(2020\), Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Governor \(March 23, 2020\).](#)

[Executive Order 51 \(2020\), Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Governor \(March 12, 2020\).](#)

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)).

Cross Refs.:

<u>IFA</u>	<u>Assessment and Evaluation</u>
<u>IFA-R</u>	<u>Regulations Governing the Assessment and Evaluation Policy</u>
<u>IGBI</u>	<u>Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Classes</u>
<u>IKB</u>	<u>Course Assignments-Secondary</u>
<u>IKB-R</u>	<u>Regulations Governing the Course Assignments Policy</u>
<u>IKC</u>	<u>Grading</u>
<u>IKC-R</u>	<u>Regulations Governing the Grading Policy</u>
<u>IKE</u>	<u>Academic Promotion and Retention</u>
<u>IKE-R</u>	<u>Regulations for Academic Promotion and Retention</u>
IKFA	Locally-Awarded Verified Credits