

INSTRUCTION

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STANDARDS OF LEARNING, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SOL Tests and Verified Credits

1. All students in grades 3 through 8 shall participate in the SOL testing program either with SOL tests, Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).
2. Any student taking a course with a corresponding end-of-course SOL assessment is required to take the SOL test, Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) or another substitute evaluation approved by the Board of Education.
3. Students passing a course and passing the end-of-course SOL test shall earn a verified credit.
4. The number of verified credits required shall match the number required by the diploma option selected and regulations set by the Virginia Board of Education.
5. Upon approval by the Superintendent or designee, a student shall be allowed to demonstrate competence in a course and take the end-of-course SOL test without completion of the required 140 clock hours in the courses.
6. The documentation for the acquisition of knowledge needed for the SOL test without the completion of the required clock hours in the course shall include mastery of the content on an assessment approved by the principal.
7. If the student passes the end-of-course test, the student shall earn a verified credit toward graduation.
8. The documentation shall be maintained in the student's scholastic record as evidence of mastery of course content.
9. For students identified as limited English proficient (LEP), a committee shall meet to determine the appropriateness of the student's participation in the SOL program.
10. The committee must use the current requirements for the participation for LEP students when making the decision regarding participation and in what format.
11. For students identified as students with disabilities (SWD), the IEP or 504 committee shall determine the participation of students in the SOL program or one of the other options available.

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12. Documentation for the participation in the VGLA, VSEP, or VAAP shall be included in the student's scholastic record.

Graduation Requirements

1. The Charlottesville City School Board shall set the graduation requirements for the standard, advanced, and modified standard diplomas for students graduating from Charlottesville High School.
2. The requirements may include more credits than the Virginia Board of Education requires but shall not require less in any content area.
3. The graduation requirements shall be reviewed periodically and may be changed with a recommendation by the Superintendent and approval by the School Board.
4. The principal of Charlottesville High School or designee shall notify rising eleventh and twelfth grade students and their parents of their status toward the completion of high school graduation requirements.
5. This notification shall include the number of credits and verified credits already attained and the number of credits and verified credits still needed to graduate.
6. A Special Diploma will be awarded to each student with a disability who successfully completes the requirements set forth in his/her IEP, but does not meet the requirements for other diplomas.
7. The principal of Charlottesville High School or designee will notify the parent of students with disabilities who have an IEP and who fail to meet the requirements for graduation of the student's right to a free and appropriate education to age 21, inclusive, pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-213 et seq.
8. A Certificate of Program Completion will be awarded to any student who completes a prescribed program of studies defined by the Charlottesville City School Board but who is not eligible to receive a standard, advanced studies, modified standard, special, or general achievement diploma.
9. The principal of Charlottesville High School or designee will notify the parent of students who fail to graduate or who fail to achieve the number of verified units of credit required for graduation as provided in the Standards for Accreditation and who have not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1st of the school year of the right to a free public education.

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10. If the student who does not graduate or achieve such verified units of credit is a student for whom English is a second language, the principal of Charlottesville High School or designee will notify the parent of the student's opportunity for a free public education in accordance with Va. Code § 22.1-5.

11. Charlottesville City Schools has established a program of testing for general educational development (GED) through which persons may earn a high school equivalency certificate or a General Achievement Diploma. The program shall be operated through the Charlottesville City Adult Education Program. The following persons may participate in the testing program:
 - persons who are at least 18 years of age¹ and not enrolled in a public school or not otherwise meeting the school attendance requirements set forth in Va. Code § 22.1-254;
 - persons 16 years of age or older who have been instructed by their parents in their home pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-254.1 and who have completed such home school instruction;
 - persons who have been excused from school attendance pursuant to subsections B and C of Va. Code § 22.1-254;
 - persons for whom an individual student alternative education plan has been granted pursuant to subsection D of Va. Code § 22.1-243; and
 - persons 16 through 18 years of age who are housed in adult correctional facilities and who are actively pursuing a GED certificate but who are not enrolled in an individual student alternative education plan pursuant to subsection D of Va. Code § 22.1-254;
 - persons 16 years of age or older who have been expelled from school pursuant to Va. Code §§ 22.1-277.06 through 22.1-277.08; and
 - persons required by court order to participate in the testing program.

¹ Under special circumstances consistent with Va. Code § 22.1-254 and 22.1-254.2, the age limit may be lowered to 16.

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12. Under no circumstances will anyone under the age of 16 be eligible for the testing program.
13. The administrator of the GED testing program shall determine if a student is eligible to take the GED test. Approval for testing must be received from the Office of Student Services if the student is below the compulsory attendance age of 18.
14. Official test scores may be accepted from an approved state agency, an official jurisdiction responsible for overseeing GED testing, or an official GED testing center outside of Virginia.
15. An individual may take the full battery of tests up to three times during a calendar year. Test scores may be combined in accordance with GED Testing Service policy.
16. Any student completing these requirements shall be eligible to receive a GED certificate.
17. A General Achievement Diploma is intended to provide a diploma option for individuals who leave high school without a diploma. A General Achievement Diploma will be awarded to eligible candidates who satisfy the following requirements:
 - be at least 18 years old and not enrolled in public school;
 - not otherwise be subject to Virginia's compulsory school attendance requirements.
18. In order to be awarded a General Achievement Diploma, candidates must earn a total of twenty standard units of credit including the following:
 - four standard units of credit in English;
 - three standard units of credit in mathematics;
 - two standard units of credit in science;
 - two standard units of credit history and social sciences; and
 - nine standard units of credit in electives.

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19. The required standard units of credit may be earned by enrolling in:
 - a public school if the candidate meets the age requirements;
 - a community college or other institution of higher education;
 - an adult high school program; or
 - correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.

20. Candidates for a General Achievement Diploma must participate in GED preparation and must achieve a passing score on the GED examination.

21. Graduation Requirements and Virginia Assessment Program information is included in the Parent Information Guide and Program of Study.

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Legal References: 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
8 VAC 20-131-30
8 VAC 20-131-110 B.3,
8 VAC 20-360-10
8 VAC 20-360-20
8 VAC 20-680-10
8 VAC 20-680-20

Superintendent's Memoranda No. 36 (March 3, 2000) and No. 39 (February 20, 2004).

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.

Senate Bill 609 and House Bill 493 adopted by the 2002 General Assembly