

THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Generally

In accordance with the 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 in third through eighth grade. Each student is expected to take the 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 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 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.

Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) shall participate in the Virginia Assessment Program. 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.

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: April 26, 2018

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 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