

LOCALLY-AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS (LAVC)

I. Generally

The Alexandria City School Board awards verified credits in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science in accordance with state law and Virginia Board of Education regulations and guidance.

Students who entered ninth grade for the first time before the 2018-2019 school year may be awarded up to three locally-awarded verified credits. Such students may only apply locally-awarded verified credits toward a standard diploma.

Students who entered ninth grade for the first time during or after the 2018-2019 school year may be awarded one locally-awarded verified credit. Such students may apply the locally-awarded verified credit toward either a standard or advanced studies diploma.

Except for LAVC determinations made during the 2019-2020 school year under the COVID-19 public health emergency guidelines (Regulation IKFA-R), to be eligible to earn locally-awarded verified credits a student must:

- Pass the high school course but not pass the related Standards of Learning (SOL) test;
- Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning (SOL) test after taking the test at least twice; and
- Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through the review process outlined below.

II. Review Process

As outlined in Regulation IKFA-R, the School Board appoints LAVC review panels through the Superintendent to consider evidence of a student's achievement of adequate knowledge of SOL content. Although different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools, each panel includes at least three educators. When an LAVC is being considered as a credit accommodation, the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction is included on the panel.

LAVC review panels have discretion in determining which information will be considered. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assignments, divisionwide exams, course grades and additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essays or written questions) as deemed appropriate.

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.

III. Locally-Awarded Verified Credits (LAVC) as Credit Accommodations

Students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations shall not be subject to the limit on the number of locally-awarded verified credits.

Students with disabilities who entered ninth grade for the first time before the 2018-2019 school year that require more than three LAVCs in any subject must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.

Students with disabilities who entered ninth grade for the first time during or after the 2018-2019 school year that require more than one LAVC must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.

To be eligible for such credit accommodations, students with disabilities must meet all criteria established by state law and eligibility for such credit accommodations must be established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

The student must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive credit accommodations for the Standard Diploma:

- The student must have a current IEP or 504 plan with standards-based goals;
- The student must have a disability that precludes him or her from achieving and progressing commensurate with grade-level expectations, but is learning on grade-level content;
- The student needs significant instructional supports to access grade-level Standards of Learning (SOL) content and to show progress; and
- Based on multiple objective measures of past performance, the student might not be expected to achieve the required standard and verified units of credit within the standard time frame.

A. Special Permission Locally-Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPLAVC-A)

Students with disabilities who have earned a scaled score below 375 on a Standards of Learning (SOL) test and have met certain other eligibility requirements may also earn a verified credit through the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE's) Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPLAVC-A).

The Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPLAVC-A) allows ACPS to grant locally-awarded verified credits in reading, writing, mathematics, science and history to certain students with disabilities. Eligible students must:

- Pass the high school course based on a non-modified curriculum;
- Score below 375 on the SOL test;
- Have a documented disability that presents a unique or significant challenge to the degree that the student is unable to demonstrate knowledge of the course content on the SOL test using available accommodations; and
- Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level.

Consideration of a Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation is determined through the IEP and/or 504 review process, and documented in accordance with VDOE requirements, including:

- The disability that prevents the student from fully demonstrating his/her knowledge of the course content on the SOL test even with accommodations; and
- Evidence of the use or consideration of other credit accommodations and other substitute assessment options.

Upon review of the documentation, VDOE determines whether a Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation is warranted. VDOE will respond that either:

- Based on the information provided, ACPS may move forward with its local policy and procedures for awarding the locally-awarded verified credit; or
- The information provided is insufficient to complete the review.

VDOE also includes comments in its response.

Adopted: November 21, 2002
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: May 14, 2015
Amended: October 27, 2016
Amended: May 9, 2019
Amended: June 5, 2020
Amended: October 15, 2020

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.

Cross Refs.: IFA Assessment and Evaluation
IFA-R Regulations Governing the Assessment and Evaluation Policy
IGBI Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Classes
IKB Course Assignments-Secondary

IKB-R	Regulations Governing the Course Assignments Policy
IKC	Grading
IKC-R	Regulations Governing the Grading Policy
IKE	Academic Promotion and Retention
IKE-R	Regulations for Academic Promotion and Retention
IKFA-R	Locally-Awarded Verified Credits