

STUDENTS

Locally Awarded Verified Credits

~~Under the Standards of Accreditation, students in the Classes of 2004-2006 must earn two verified credits in English (reading and writing) and four verified credits in subjects of the student's own selection in order to earn the Standard Diploma.~~

The Virginia Board of Education has ~~further~~ set forth guidelines governing procedures and criteria for local school boards to award ~~a local verified credit~~ Locally Awarded Verified Credits (LAVC) to all students ~~toward the Standard Diploma to certain students. These guidelines enable local school boards to award local verified credits only in English, mathematics, science and history/social sciences that may be used to fulfill the requirement of four verified credits of the student's own selection. This process does not apply to the awarding of local verified credit in English or mathematics, which must be earned by passing the high school Standards of Learning tests (or approved substitute tests) in reading, writing, and mathematics. Local verified credits awarded through this process cannot be used if the student changes to the Advanced Diploma track.~~

The number of LAVCs and the diplomas to which they may be applied are different for students who entered the ninth grade prior to the 2018-19 school year and for those who entered in 2018-19 and thereafter. Students who entered in the ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-19 school year may be awarded a total of three LAVCs in English, mathematics, science, and/or history/social science. Students who entered in the ninth grade in 2018-19 and thereafter shall be eligible to earn no more than one LAVC in English, mathematics, science, and/or history/social science.

A. General Eligibility

To be eligible to earn ~~locally awarded verified credits~~ a LAVC in English, mathematics, science, or history/social science under these guidelines, a student must:

- ~~1. Enter the ninth grade for the first time in school years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, or 2002-2003~~ Pass the high school course;
- ~~2. Pass the high school course, not pass the related Standards of Learning or approved substitute test, and score within a designated range on the Standards of Learning test that does not represent passing but does represent a certain level of achievement~~ Score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the an applicable Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice; and
- ~~3. Have earned fewer than four of the student selected verified credits required for the Standard Diploma~~ Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal

process administered at the local level (see *Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits* for details).

~~B. Specific Criteria and Guidelines by Subject Area~~

~~1. Science and History/Social Science~~

- ~~a. The awarding of local verified credit applies only to the four student-selected verified credits required for the Standard Diploma.~~
- ~~b. The student must score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice without passing.~~

~~2. Reading, Writing, and/or Math~~

- ~~a. The awarding of local verified credits in these subject areas applies to students with disabilities (IEPs or 504 plans) only.~~
- ~~b. Eligible students must:
 - ~~1) Pass the high school course;~~
 - ~~2) Score within 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice; and~~
 - ~~3) Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level.~~~~

C.B. General Provisions

- 1. No more than four verified credits may be awarded through the above process for general education students seeking local verified credits in science and history/social science. A local review panel comprised of at least three educators will review information that provides evidence of the student's mastery of the standards, competencies, and objectives. The panel shall have discretion in determining the information to be considered and may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Results of classroom assignments,
 - b. Division-wide exams, course grades, and
 - c. Additional academic assignments (e.g. papers, projects, essays, or written questions) as deemed appropriate.
- 1.

2. ~~There is no limit on local verified credits for students with disabilities through the above process~~For students entering the ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-19 academic year:
 - a. ~~No more than three locally awarded verified credits~~LAVCs may be awarded.
 - b. LAVCs cannot be applied toward an Advanced Studies diploma.
 2. c. ~~Students that~~who are no longer in school ~~who~~and would now be eligible for a ~~locally awarded verified credit~~LAVC in English or mathematics may ~~now~~earn a ~~locally awarded verified credit~~ LAVC, provided that all criteria is met.
3. ~~The guidelines outlined above may not be used to award verified credits for the Advanced Diploma~~For students entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-19 academic year and beyond:
 - a. ~~No more than one locally awarded verified credit~~LAVC may be awarded.
 3. b. LAVCs can be applied toward either a Standard or an Advanced Studies diploma.
4. ~~The award of verified credits under these guidelines will not be used to recalculate a school's accreditation rating~~Students with credit accommodations are not subject to the ~~limit on the number of LAVCs.~~

D.C. Appeal Process

1. Level I

Each high school shall establish its own panel to review appeals for ~~locally verified credits~~LAVCs. Each high school appeal panel shall be chaired by the school principal ~~or designee~~. In addition, each high school panel shall ~~have the following members: also include~~ the student's ~~guidance~~school counselor, and the ~~appropriate department chair of either the science department or the social studies department,~~ depending upon the course appealed. If the student under consideration is identified for special education, ~~the principal will ask the chair of the special education department to serve as an ad hoc member of the panel (non-voting member).~~

The panel shall meet during the first semester of the school year in which the student intends to graduate if the student meets the criteria set forth in Section A and B of this Regulation. In addition, the panel can reconvene regarding an individual student if the student meets the criteria for earning a ~~local verified credit~~LAVC after taking and not passing the SOL test in the winter or spring of that year.

- a. ~~An adult~~ student and/or ~~his/her~~ parent/legal guardian ~~of a minor student~~ have the right to request an appeal if the student meets the criteria set forth in Section A and B of this Regulation.
- b. A written notice of appeal shall be filed with the school principal prior to the completion of the first grading period of the school year during which the student intends to graduate.

- c. The local review panel will convene no later than the last day of the first semester.
- d. The panel will review information that provides evidence indicating the student has met the eligibility criteria provisions described in sections, a., b., and c. above.
- e. The local review panel will review information that provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The panel shall have the discretion in determining the information to be considered and may include, but not be limited to, results of classroom assessments division wide exams, course grades, and additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essay or written questions) as deemed appropriate.
- f. Based on the evidence reviewed, the local review panel will make its recommendation to (a) award a ~~local-verified-credit~~LAVC, (b) deny the ~~local-verified-credit~~LAVC, (c) suggest participation in a remedial program, or (d) make additional academic assignments (e.g., papers, projects, essay, or written questions) as deemed appropriate.
- g. Notification to the parent/legal guardian of a minor student or an ~~and~~ adult student regarding the result of the appeal will be provided in writing within five (5) administrative days of the panel meeting.
- h. The local review panel's written response to an adult student or the parent/legal guardian of a minor ~~and~~ student must include information regarding the process of appealing the panel's decision.

2. Level II

The ~~School Division Virginia Beach City Public Schools~~ shall establish a central panel to review appeals from the local school panels. This panel shall be chaired by the ~~Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools~~appropriate secondary Senior Executive Director. This panel will also include the Chief Academic Officer or designee, and the Director of ~~Student Support~~Guidance Services or designee. The panel shall also have the authority to invite a curriculum coordinator from the Department of Teaching and Learning (depending upon which course is under review) and/or the principal of the school to serve as ad hoc (non-voting) members of the committee.

- a. Written notice of appeal shall be filed with the ~~Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools~~appropriate secondary Senior Executive Director within five (5) administrative days of receipt of the decision of the local review panel.

- b. The central panel will convene within five (5) administrative days.
- c. The central panel will uphold the decision of the local review panel, overturn the decision, or modify the decision.
- d. Notification to the parent/guardian and student regarding the results of the appeal will be provided in writing within (5) administrative days.
- e. The decision of the central panel shall be considered final. No further avenues of appeal are available.

Legal Reference

Virginia Board of Education, 8-VAC-20-131-10, et seq., as amended. Guidelines for Local School Boards to Award Verified Credits for the Standard Diploma to Transition Students.

Guidelines for Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Attachment A, Memo No. 105-13 (April 19, 2013)

Virginia Board of Education, Emergency Guidelines for Local Alternatives for Awarding Standard Units of Credit, as amended. (April 2, 2020).

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