

1 **THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

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3 **I. Generally**

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5 In accordance with the Virginia Board of Education’s *Regulations Establishing*  
6 *Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131-30, 8VAC20-131-  
7 110), the following policy has been established.

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9 The Board of Education (BOE) has established educational objectives known as the  
10 Standards of Learning (SOLs), which form the core of Virginia’s educational program,  
11 and other education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of  
12 the skills that are necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years  
13 beyond.

14 The Alexandria City School Board has developed and implemented a program of  
15 instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets BOE requirements.  
16 It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from  
17 nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by  
18 the BOE.

19 The School Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and  
20 regulations. The requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from high  
21 school are those in effect when the student enters ninth grade for the first time.

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23 **II. Virginia Assessment Program**

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25 The Board of Education requires the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests  
26 in third through eighth grade. Each student is expected to take the applicable tests  
27 following instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest  
28 grade level, following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in  
29 any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8  
30 VAC 20-131-30. Schools will use the test results in third through eighth grade as part of a  
31 set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

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33 A standard unit of credit for world languages may be awarded based on a waiver of the  
34 140 clock hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD.

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36 Upon demonstration of mastery of course content and objectives, the Superintendent or  
37 designee may recommend that qualified students may receive a standard unit(s) of credit  
38 and be permitted to sit for the relevant SOL Assessment to earn a verified credit(s)  
39 without having to meet the 140 clock hour requirement, in accordance with Policy IGBG.

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41 Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) shall participate in the Virginia  
42 Assessment Program. Additionally, students with disabilities shall be assessed in  
43 accordance with state and federal guidelines. Provisions regarding the participation level

44 of EL students, and any necessary accommodations for students with disabilities are  
45 outlined in Regulation IKF-R.  
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- 47 Adopted: January 9, 1997
- 48 Amended: May 20, 2004
- 49 Amended: July 1, 2005
- 50 Amended: June 1, 2006
- 51 Amended: April 15, 2015
- 52 Amended: June 23, 2016
- 53 Amended: December 15, 2016
- 54 Amended: April 26, 2018

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- 56 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.
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- 58 8 VAC 20-131-5.
- 59 8 VAC 20-131-30.
- 60 8 VAC 20-131-40.
- 61 8 VAC 20-131-50.
- 62 8 VAC 20-131-51.
- 63 8 VAC 20-131-110.
- 64

65 Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard  
66 Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015).

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- 70 Cross Refs.: IAA Notification of Learning Objectives
- 71 IGBF English Learners
- 72 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
- 73 IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
- 74 IKEB Acceleration
- 75 IKF-R The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
- 76 Regulations
- 77 IKFA Locally Awarded Verified Credits
- 78 IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit:
- 79 Credit-by-Exam for World Languages
- 80 IKFD-R Credit-by-Exam for World Languages Regulations
- 81 IKH Retaking SOL Assessments
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