

MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA
20 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

Effective For Those Students Entering 9th Grade For The First Time In 2000-2001 And After

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

The Modified Standard Diploma is intended for certain students who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team anytime after the student's eighth grade year. There are no verified credit requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma. **Beginning with the 9th grade class of 2000-01, students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma are required to meet literacy and numeracy requirements on the 8th grade English reading and mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.** Students may substitute a higher level high school SOL test for the 8th grade SOL tests in English reading and mathematics or other substitute tests approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

A student who has chosen to pursue a Modified Standard Diploma shall also be allowed to pursue the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma at any time throughout the high school career. The student may not be excluded from courses and tests required to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.

Modified Standard Diploma: 20 Units of Credit

| Modified Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.D) | |
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| Discipline | Standard Credits |
| English | 4 |
| Mathematics ¹ | 3 |
| Science ² | 2 |
| History and Social Science ³ | 2 |
| Health and Physical Education | 2 |
| Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed | 1 |
| Electives ⁴ | 6 |
| Total Credits | 20 |

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and statistics in courses that have been approved by the Board.

² Courses completed shall include content from at least two of the following: applications of earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics in courses approved by the Board.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia History and one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia Government in courses approved by the Board.

⁴ Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include a least two sequential electives in the same manner required for the Standard Diploma.

Declaration of Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following: Office of Design and Construction Services (located at 10640 Page Avenue Suite 400, Fairfax Virginia 22030, 703-246-3632) regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or TTY 703-280-9833), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Office of Monitoring and Compliance (571-423-4210), Department of Special Services, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities. Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.