

## STANDARD DIPLOMA

### 22 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

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.

To graduate from high school, students shall meet the minimum requirements for the standard diploma as outlined below including 22 standard credits, 6 of which must be verified credits. A **standard** credit is earned when a student passes a course. A **verified** credit is earned when a student passes a course and the associated end-of-course SOL test. In some cases, students may utilize substitute tests, certifications, or the appeal process to earn verified credits. State guidelines prescribe the number of verified credits required for graduation for students entering a Virginia public high school for the first time during the tenth grade or after. Consult your school counselor for specific information.

Students in grades 7-12 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken in middle school. These courses count toward credits in the required sequences as well as toward the total number of credits required for graduation and calculation of the grade point average (GPA). **Middle school parents may request that grades for any high school credit-bearing course taken in the middle school be removed from the student's high school transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course.** In addition, the student will not be eligible for a verified credit in any course which has been removed from the transcript. **The request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the middle or high school the student will attend prior to the beginning of the next school year.**

#### **Standard Diploma: 22 Units of Credit**

Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.B)		
Discipline Area	Standard Credit	Verified Credit
		Effective for Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2,6</sup>	3	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3,6</sup>	4	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Electives <sup>4</sup>	5	
Student Selected Test <sup>5</sup>		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6:</b> 2 English; 1 mathematics; 1 science; 1 history/social science; 1 student selected

<sup>1</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and shall include at least two course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra and geometry.

<sup>2</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement are U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and World History/Geography I and World History/Geography II. AP World History satisfies the requirement for World History/Geography II.

<sup>4</sup> Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives.

<sup>5</sup> A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

<sup>6</sup> Students who complete a career and technical [education] program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for (1) the student selected verified credit and (2) either a science or history or social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.