

STATE DIPLOMA SEALS

1. Students who complete the requirements for an advanced studies diploma with an average grade of “B” or better, and successfully complete college-level coursework that will earn the student at least nine transferable college credits in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, or dual enrollment courses shall receive the **Governor’s Seal** on the diploma.
2. Students who complete the requirements for a standard diploma or advanced studies diploma with an average grade of “A” shall receive a **Board of Education Seal** on the diploma.
3. The **Board of Education’s Career and Technical Education Seal** will be awarded to students who earn a standard or advanced studies diploma and complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that they choose and maintain a “B” or better average in those courses; or (i) pass an examination or an occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification or occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, trade or professional association or (ii) acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
4. The **Board of Education’s Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology** will be awarded to students who earn either a standard or advanced studies diploma and (i) satisfy all of the mathematics requirements for the advanced studies diploma (four units of credit including Algebra II; two verified units of credit) with a “B” average or better; and (ii) either (a) pass an examination in a career and technical education field that confers certification from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association; (b) acquire a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia; or (c) pass an examination approved by the board that confers college-level credit in a technology or computer science area.
5. The **Board of Education’s Seal for Excellence in Civics Education** will be awarded to students who earn either a standard or advanced studies diploma and: (i) complete Virginia and United States History and Virginia and United States Government courses with a grade of “B” or higher; and, (ii) have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions as determined by local school board policies and, (iii) complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities. Activities that would satisfy the requirements of clause (iii) of this subdivision include: (a) volunteering for a charitable or religious organization that provides services to the poor, sick or less fortunate; (b) participating in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or similar youth organizations; (c) participating in JROTC; (d) participating in political campaigns or government internships, or Boys State, Girls State, or Model General Assembly; or (e) participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that have a civics focus.
6. Students may receive other seals or awards for exceptional academic, career and technical, citizenship, or other exemplary performance in accordance with criteria defined by the local school board.

(NOTE: The requirements in the 2006 Virginia Standards of Accreditation for seals take effect with the ninth-grade class of 2006-2007 and beyond. The requirements adopted in the 2000 SOA for the ninth-grade classes of 2001 through 2005, as stated here, will remain in effect for the graduating classes of 2007, 2008, and 2009.)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CREDIT

The Foreign Language Credit Program exam is given each fall to students who wish to demonstrate written proficiency in one of several languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, French, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Pilipino, Twi, Urdu, or Vietnamese. Students who are successful on the exam receive two foreign language credits which may be used to fulfill the foreign language requirements of the Advanced Studies Diploma or as electives for the Standard Diploma. In addition, students who participate in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program during grades 7-12 may apply two units of credit in the Level 2 category (course code 5720) towards the foreign language requirement of the Advanced Studies Diploma.

For more information on the exam, go to:
<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/creditem/index.htm>
or contact the Foreign Language Office at 703-208-7724.

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

Grade-point average (GPA) is calculated on the basis of **all courses for which credit has been earned or attempted, including repeated courses previously passed**. In order for a repeat course to raise a GPA, the student’s grade must be higher than the one originally given. All classes appearing on the high school transcript including high school classes taken in summer school, middle school, elementary school, or online are included when calculating GPA.

Quality points are numerical values assigned to final grades for the purpose of determining a numerical average. Quality points are assigned to grades earned in all courses for which credit is received, as follows:

A	-	4.0	C+	-	2.5	D	-	1.0
B+	-	3.5	C	-	2.0	F	-	.0
B	-	3.0	D+	-	1.5	P	-	.0

Advanced Placement (AP) courses and specified International Baccalaureate (IB) courses receive an additional .5 added to the final grade upon successful completion of the course. Successful completion is defined as completing the course with a passing grade and taking the corresponding AP or IB exam. For example, a final grade of A in an AP/IB course shall receive 4.5 quality points for purposes of calculating grade point average.

Courses dropped will not be counted in grade point average (GPA) except when a final grade of F is received: (a) for the fourth grading period of a full-year course, or (b) for the second grading period of a semester course. A student's GPA is determined by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the number of courses included in the transcript. The grade-point average is reported to three decimal places (thousandths).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If a student drops a course during the:

1st quarter	No penalty--nothing is recorded.
2nd quarter	WP (withdrawn passing) or WF (withdrawn failing) is recorded. Exception: For semester courses a WP or F for failure is recorded.*
3rd quarter	WP or WF is recorded.
4th quarter	WP or F for failure is recorded.*

* Unless there are unusual circumstances, a student who has a passing grade may not withdraw during the terminating quarter of the course.