

## **STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **I. Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests and Verified Units of Credit**

The Board of Education has established educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years beyond.

The Gloucester County School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education.

In kindergarten through eighth grade, where Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are required by the Board of Education, each student is expected to take the SOL tests. Schools will use the SOL test results in kindergarten through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

Each student in middle and secondary school will take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the course and achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course. Students may earn verified credits in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade.

The standard unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and successful completion of the requirements of the course.

A verified unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and the achievement by the student of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test for that course or additional tests as described below.

A student may also earn a verified unit of credit by the following methods:

- in accordance with the provisions of the Standards of Quality, students may earn a standard and verified unit of credit for any elective course in which the core academic SOL course content has been integrated and the student passes the related end-of-course SOL test. Such course and test combinations must be approved by the Board of Education.
- upon the recommendation of the division superintendent and demonstration of mastery of course content and objectives, qualified students may receive a standard unit of credit and be permitted to sit for the relevant SOL test to earn a verified credit without having to meet the 140-clock-hour requirement. The superintendent by regulation will determine the manner in which a student may demonstrate mastery of course content and objectives, and documentation of such mastery will be maintained in the student's permanent record.

Students may also earn verified credits by taking alternative tests to the SOL assessment. Such tests may only be those approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and the student may earn verified credits only by achieving that score established by the Board of Education.

Participation in the SOL testing program by students with disabilities will be prescribed by provisions of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. All students with disabilities will be assessed with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary.

All students identified as limited English proficient (LEP) will participate in the SOL testing program. A school-based committee will convene and make determinations regarding the participation level of LEP students. In kindergarten through eighth grade, limited English proficient students may be

granted a one-time exemption from SOL testing in the areas of writing, science, and history and social science.

II. Graduation Requirements

A. Generally

The School Board will award diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who earn the units of credit prescribed by the Board of Education, pass the prescribed tests, and meet such other requirements as are prescribed by the School Board and approved by the Board of Education.

B. Types of Diplomas and Certificates

The Gloucester County School Board will award diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations.

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma are those in effect when he or she enters ninth grade for the first time.

**ADOPTED:** January 13, 1987

**REVISED:** March 8, 1988  
July 1, 1991  
July 13, 1999  
October 11, 2005  
March 10, 2009  
September 10, 2013  
September 9, 2014

**LEGAL REFERENCES:** Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:4, 22.1-254(D), and 22.1-254.2.

8 VAC 20-131-30

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-110

**CROSS REFERENCES:** IAA Notification of Learning Objectives

IKFA Locally Awarded Verified Credits