

DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATES

Secondary students may earn a standard diploma (22 credits with 6 of them Verified), an advanced diploma (24 credits** with 9 of them Verified), a Special Diploma (IEP based), or a Certificate of Program Completion (for students who do not meet the qualifications for a diploma).

**Students who entered ninth grade in 2012-13 and beyond must earn 26 credits for an advanced diploma.

Secondary students may earn Certificates of Vocational Program Completion by enrolling in vocational programs that include a prescribed offering of courses leading toward work-related skills. This certificate is separate from whatever diploma may be earned.

Secondary students may enroll in alternative programs that will prepare them for earning a General Education Development (GED) Certificate.

Secondary students may earn the following:

- A. Standard and Advanced Diplomas:** All students will be awarded a diploma upon earning the units of credit prescribed by the Virginia State Board of Education, obtaining the verified credits by passing the Standards of Learning (SOL) test as required by the Virginia State Board of Education, and meeting such other requirements as prescribed by the local School Board and approved by the Virginia State Board of Education and the Standards of Accreditation.
- B. Modified Standard Diploma:** Students who entered the ninth grade prior to the 2013-14 school year and who are identified as having an educational disability and earn the units of credit but not the verified credits prescribed by the Virginia State Board of Education, shall be awarded a Modified Standard Diploma. Students who earn a Modified Standard Diploma also may earn Certificates of Vocational Program Completion. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma is determined by the IEP Team at any point AFTER the student's eighth grade year.
- C. Special Diploma:** Students who are identified as having an educational disability and earn neither the units of credit nor the verified credits prescribed by the Virginia State Board of Education, but do complete the requirements of the Individualized Education Plans, shall be awarded a Special Diploma by the School Board. Students who earn Special Diplomas may also earn Certificates of Vocational Program Completion.
- D. Certificate of Program Completion:** Students who do not qualify for diplomas, but who have completed a course of study defined by the local School Board, shall be awarded Certificates of Program Completion.
- E. Certificate of Vocational Program Completion:** Students, who have completed a prescribed course of vocational study as defined by state regulations, shall be awarded Certificates of Vocational Program Completion by the local School Board.
- F. General Achievement Diploma:** Students who exit high school without a diploma, are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school or not otherwise meeting the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in Code of Virginia §22.1-254. Diploma candidates may be individuals who are of the age to enroll in public school whether they choose to enroll or not; or individuals who because of their age are not eligible to enroll in a public school. Diploma candidates shall participate in GED preparation.

Secondary students may be excused from participation in regular physical education classes due to medical reasons. The physical education graduation requirements will be fulfilled through participation in an adaptive physical education program as prescribed by the attending physician.

ADOPTED: July 1, 1991

REVISED: June 8, 1999
July 10, 2001
September 11, 2001
March 10, 2009
September 10, 2013

LEGAL REFERENCES: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-254

Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,
Section 8, VAC 20131-50, Requirements for Graduation

CROSS REFERENCE: IKF Standards of Learning Tests and Graduation Requirements

Gloucester County School Board