

DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATES

Secondary students may earn a Standard Diploma (22 credits with 6 of them Verified), an Advanced Diploma (26 credits with 9 of them Verified), an Applied Studies Diploma (IEP based), or a Certificate of Program Completion (for students who do not meet the qualifications for a diploma).

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. Applied Studies Diploma:** Students who are identified as having a disability, who complete the requirements of their individualized education plans (IEPs), and meet certain requirements prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to regulations, but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma.
- C. 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.
- D. General Achievement Adult High School Diploma:** The Adult High School Diploma program enables an adult who is no longer enrolled in public education to complete the required coursework to earn an Adult High School Diploma, a credential approved by the Virginia Board of Education. To obtain this credential, the adult student must complete all of the course requirements that were in place at the time they entered the ninth grade, with the exception of health and physical education. Certain requirements for specific assessments may be waived if the assessments are no longer administered to students in Virginia public schools.

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
September 12, 2017

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