

Graduation Requirements

Students Entering *9th Grade in 2011-12 and 2012-13*

Required Courses	Advanced Studies Diploma		Standard Diploma	
	Standard units of credit	Verified units of credit	Standard units of credit	Verified units of credit
English – 9, 10, 11, and 12	4	2 Writing and Reading	4	2 Writing Reading
Mathematics – Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra, Functions and Data Analysis; Algebra II; or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II (Standard Diploma) or at least three different course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II (Advanced Studies Diploma).	4	2	3	1
Laboratory Science – Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma (Standard Diploma). The Advanced Studies Diploma requires at least three different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma.	4	2	3	1#
History and Social Sciences – Courses shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one (Standard Diploma) or both (Advanced Studies Diploma) of the following: World History to 1500; World History from 1500; World Geography may be accepted as one of the required courses for the Advanced Studies diploma for transfer students.	4	2	3	1#
Foreign Language to include Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers courses – Courses shall include three years of one language or two years each of two languages.	3			
Health/Physical Education I, II	2		2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1		1	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1			
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education – Credits earned shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.			2	
Electives – Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives (*Standard Diploma only).	3		4*	
Student Selected Test – A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Board.		1		1#
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26	9	22	6

Students who complete Advanced Placement, Cambridge, college-level, or courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma shall be deemed to have completed the requirements for graduation under these standards provided they have earned the standard units of credit and verified units of credit in accordance with the requirements of the Standard Diploma or Advanced Studies Diploma, or in the case of a complete International Baccalaureate Program, the number of verified credits required for an Advanced Studies Diploma.

Students who are seeking the Standard Diploma and 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 acquire a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a science or history and 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 educational test to verify student achievement.