

Understanding the Applied Studies Diploma



Limitations of Applied Studies Diploma

- Not equivalent to a Standard Diploma.
- Difficult to change to other diploma options once pursued.
- May not qualify a child for higher education, federal financial aid and some employment opportunities.
- Eligible for FAPE through the age of 22.

Available only for children with disabilities:

- Complete the requirements of their IEP.
- Do not meet requirements for Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.

When Should I Begin Thinking About Diploma Options?

- Start thinking about diploma options as soon as child enters school.
- Choose diploma option that best meets goals for life after high school.
- Plan to achieve highest diploma option necessary to meet goals.

Key Curriculum Point Modifications vs Accommodations

MODIFICATIONS

- Expectations are different from other children.
- Content or task may be reduced in depth and complexity.
- Participates in VAAP assessment.

Diploma Options:
Applied Studies Diploma

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Expectations are same as other children.
- Adaptations are made that support access to the general curriculum.
- Participates in SOL tests.

Diploma Options:
All diplomas

Testing Decision Options

- Determined by IEP Team.
 - Documented in IEP.
- Assessment Participation Options:
- Standards of Learning (SOL) test with no accommodations.
 - SOL test with accommodations.
 - Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)

Career Planning

Important People: School Counselor & IEP Team

Elementary & Middle School Activities:

- Explore Career Clusters and Pathways (CTE Career Clusters) and
- Create an Academic and Career Plan (Road map to goals) and
- Receive instruction in Career Investigations

Questions to Ask IEP Team

- How do the decisions that we are making in elementary school about a child's participation in state assessments relate to the diploma options that will be available?
- What are the key factors to consider in making decisions about diploma options?
- When is the latest point at which I will be able to change my mind about my child's diploma option?