

INSTRUCTION

File: IKF

STANDARDS OF LEARNING, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. 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 Charlottesville City 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. In addition, each student in middle and secondary school shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests. Students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1, 2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education and as described below. Students who earn a passing grade in the course and achieve a passing score on the associated end-of-course SOL test shall be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-110. A student 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 standard unit of credit may also be awarded based on a waiver of the 140-clock hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit.

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.

INSTRUCTION

File: IKF

Page 2

- upon waiver of the 140-clock-hour requirement according to the Board of Education's Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit qualified students who have received a standard unit of credit will be permitted to sit for the relevant SOL test to earn a verified credit without having to meet the 140-clock-hour requirement.

Students also may 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 the 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 awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education, 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 Charlottesville City School Board will award the 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: July 16, 1998
Revised: October 21, 1999
Revised: November 21, 2002
Revised: February 15, 2007
Revised: September 20, 2007

INSTRUCTION

File: IKF
Page 3

Revised: April 17, 2008
Revised: June 17, 2010
Revised: June 25, 2013
Revised: June 27, 2016

Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended,
§§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:4,

8 VAC 20-131-30
8 VAC 20-131-50
8 VAC 20-131-110

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to
Standard Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015)

Cross References: IAA Notification of Learning Objectives
IKFA Locally Awarded Verified Credits
IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit

© 2/16 VSBA