

# A PEATC

Do You Know....



## Factsheet for Virginia's Parents- Graduation Requirements for a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma

### Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2018 or Later

Graduation requirements in Virginia have changed for these students. For detailed information, see: [www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/faq.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/faq.shtml).

Students with disabilities have the same opportunity to obtain a **Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma** as students without disabilities if they are in the **Standards of Learning (SOL)** curriculum. If your student has a modified curriculum and does not take SOL test, this is not possible. Students not taking the general education curriculum and the SOLs may receive an **Applied Studies Diploma**. If your student wants to go to college, he/she will need a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.

Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2018 or later, must pass a reduced number of **SOL** Tests to graduate, and the new **Profile of a Virginia Graduate** goes beyond tests to show that students have developed **critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship** skills. School divisions must provide workplace learning (WBL) experiences and career options through an academic and career plan (ACP).

### Credit Accommodations

Some students cannot pass the SOL tests with the required 400 score. There have been other options for students scoring between 375 and 399 to obtain a credit called a Locally Awarded Verified Credit but, not for those scoring below 375. Now, through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, students with an IEP or 504 Plan can request a locally awarded **Special Permission Credit Accommodations** to earn verified credits so that they can stay on the path to obtaining a Standard Diploma. [www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit\\_accommodations.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit_accommodations.shtml).

Besides having an IEP/504 and scoring under 375 on a SOL test, the student must:

- Pass the high school course with a non-modified curriculum.
- Show that the disability presents a unique challenge to the degree that the student can't demonstrate his knowledge on the SOL test, even with accommodations.
- Show understanding of the academic content through a **local** determined process.

The school submits a request to use credit accommodations to VDOE. If approved, the school determines how the student can demonstrate their knowledge and is responsible for awarding the credit accommodation. You will want to check into your local school division's policy.

**REQUIREMENTS ARE MET VIA:  
Standard Credits; and  
Verified Credits; and if appropriate  
Local Developed Performance  
Assessments**

**Standard Credit:** The student successfully completes the course with 140 clock hours of instruction. Some schools may have policies that in certain cases don't require the full 140-hours.

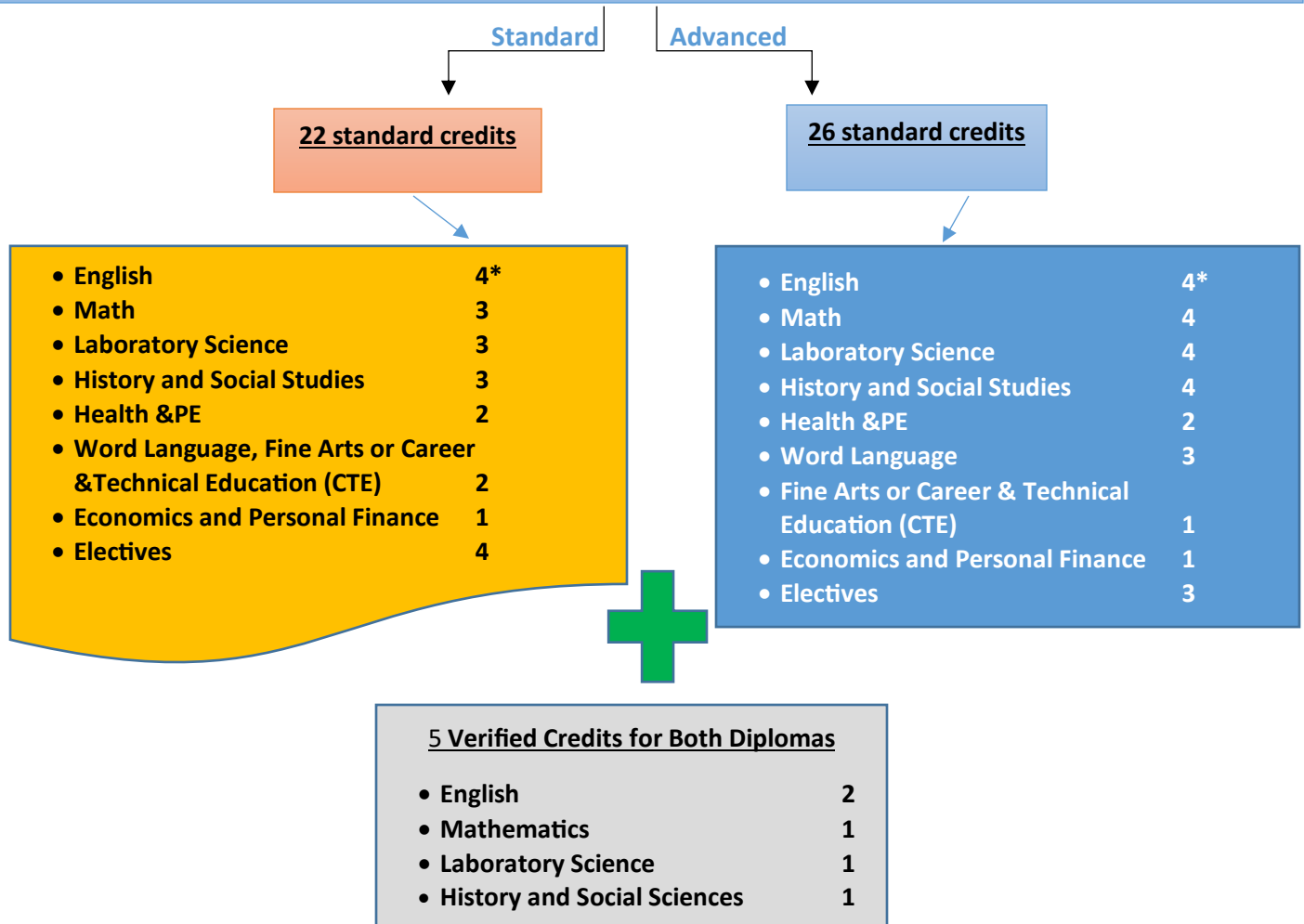
**Verified Credit** The student earns a standard credit AND passes the end of year Standards of Learning (SOL) test or a different test that has been approved by the Board of Education. In some cases, a school division may award verified credits for demonstrating mastery of course content on a **performance assessment** instead of end of course SOL tests.

**Performance Assessments** are developed by school divisions to allow students to apply what they have learned and to demonstrate critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills.

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## CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR A STANDARD OR ADVANCED DIPLOMA



- In **English Writing**, a student can prove content mastery through a locally developed **performance-based assessment**.
- **Additional Graduation Requirements for Standard and Advance Studies Diplomas** include: 1) completion of one virtual course, and 2) training in emergency first aid, CPR, and the use of automated external defibrillators. If it is documented that a student with an IEP or 504 Plan cannot successfully complete this training, the student can be exempted under Virginia regulations.

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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