

Connect for Success Conference
Virginia Department of Education
October 7, 2011

GETTING READY FOR GRADUATION...

AN OVERVIEW OF STATE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

Presentation Topics

- Overview of Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities
- Assessments Options
- Planning Tips to Help Families Get Ready for Graduation
- Questions and Answers

Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities

Graduation Terminology

- **Standard Credit** – Credit earned by passing required courses and electives.
- **Verified Credit** – Credit awarded by earning a Standard Credit and passing the corresponding end-of-course Standard of Learning (SOL) tests or other assessments approved by the Board of Education

Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities

Diploma Options	Standard Units of Credit Required (For 9 th grade class of 2011-12 and beyond)	Verified Credits Required (For 9 th grade class of 2011-12 and beyond)
Advanced Studies Diploma	26	9
Standard Diploma	22	6
Modified Standard Diploma	20	0 <i>(Must meet pass Grade 8 reading and mathematics test)</i>
Special Diploma	0	0

Verified Credits Required – Advanced Studies Diploma

⦿ 2 English Verified Credits

- End-of-Course Reading
- End of Course writing

⦿ 2 Mathematics Verified Credits*

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II

**Board of Education (BOE) may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement*

Verified Credits Required – Advanced Studies Diploma

② **2 Laboratory Science Verified Credits**

- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry

*

Verified Credits Required – Advanced Studies Diploma

● **2 History/Social Science Verified Credits**

- U.S. and Virginia History
- U. S. and Virginia Government
- World History I (to 1500)
- World History II (1500 to the present)

**BOE may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.*

Verified Credits Required – Advanced Studies Diploma

- **1 Student Selected SOL Test***

Verified Credits Required – Standard Diploma

- ◎ **2 English Verified Credits**
 - End-of-Course reading
 - End-of-Course writing

- ◎ **1 Mathematics Verified Credit***
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - Algebra II

Verified Credits Required – Standard Diploma

- ◎ **1 Laboratory Science Verified Credit***
 - Earth Science
 - Biology
 - Chemistry

Verified Credits Required – Standard Diploma

- **1 History/Social Science Verified Credit ***
 - U.S. and Virginia History
 - U. S. and Virginia Government
 - World History I (to 1500)
 - World History II (from 1500 to the present)

Verified Credits Required – Standard Diploma

- **1 Student Selected Test***

Modified Standard Diploma

- ⦿ Intended for students with disabilities who are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma.
- ⦿ Eligibility and participation is determined by the student's IEP team at any point after the student's grade 8 year.
- ⦿ Requires written consent of parent/guardian and student after review of academic history and full disclosure of options.
- ⦿ Maintains the option for pursuing other diplomas.
- ⦿ Must pass literacy and numeracy competency assessments (Grade 8 reading and mathematics)

Special Diploma

- Intended for students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas.

Certificates Available

- **General Achievement Diploma (GAD)**-intended to provide a diploma option for high school dropouts and individuals who exit high school without a diploma.
- **General Education Development Certificate (GED)** –available for person at least eighteen years of age and not currently enrolled in public education or otherwise meeting the school attendance requirements
- **Certificate of Program Completion** -Available to students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by a local school board but who do not qualify for diplomas.

Additional Information

Diploma and Certification Options
is available on the Virginia
Department of Education Website
at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/gr
aduation/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/gr
aduation/index.shtml)

Advanced Studies, Standard, and Modified Standard
Diplomas

State Assessment Options

State Assessment Options to Earn Verified Credit

- Standards of Learning Assessment (SOL)
- Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)
- Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST)

State Assessment Options for the Modified Standard Diploma

Certification of Numeracy (2011-2012)

- Grade 8 SOL mathematics assessment
- Grade 8 VSEP mathematics assessment
- Grade 8 VMAST assessment

State Assessment Options for Modified Standard Diploma

Certification of Literacy (2011-2012)

- Grade 8 SOL reading assessment
- Grade 8 VSEP reading assessment
- Grade 8 Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) reading assessment

Making Assessment Decisions

- Must be made by the student's IEP team and documented in the IEP if the student is a student is identified under IDEA
- Must be made by the student's 504 committee and documented on the 504 plan if the student is identified under Section 504

IEP or 504 Team Starting Point...

- Must consider the SOL assessments **FIRST** (with or without accommodations)
- If accommodations are used, they must be:
 - Based on the student's disability
 - Documented in the IEP or 504 plan
 - Used routinely in instruction
 - Allowed by VDOE

SOL Assessments

- ◎ Grade Level Assessments based on the Test Blueprints for the content area
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - History/Social Science
- ◎ Primarily in a multiple-choice format but will also include technology-enhanced items
- ◎ Available in online and paper/pencil formats

If the SOL assessment is not selected...

The IEP must include:

- a statement of why the student cannot participate in the SOL assessment.
- a determination regarding Alternate Assessment;
- a statement of why the Alternate Assessment is appropriate, including meeting the participation criteria

Alternate Assessment Options for Students with Disabilities

Virginia Assessments	Uses Grade Level State Content Standards	Performance judged on Grade-Level Expectations
Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)	YES	YES
Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)	YES	YES
Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST)	YES	NO
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)	NO	NO

Alternate Assessment Options for Students with Disabilities

Virginia Assessments	Available to students with IEPs	Available to students with 504 plans	Participation Criteria Required
Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)	YES	YES	YES
Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)	YES	YES	YES
Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST)	YES	NO	YES
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)	YES	NO	YES

Alternate Assessment Options for Students with Disabilities

Virginia Assessments	Assessment Format	Content Areas
Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)	Evidence-Based	Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and History/Social Science
Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)	Evidence-Based	Reading, Writing, Science and History/Social Science. (Mathematics will no longer be available starting in 2011-12)
Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST)	On-line Only	Mathematics beginning in 2011-2012 (Reading will be available beginning in 2012-2013)
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)	Evidence-Based	Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and History/Social Science

Alternate Assessment Options for Students with Disabilities

Virginia Assessments	Assessment Participants
Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)	Student is instructed in grade level content. Disability prevents the demonstration of knowledge through multiple-choice format even with accommodations. Student requires an evidence-based assessment to access state assessments.
Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)	Student is instructed in grade level content. Disability prevents the demonstration of knowledge through multiple-choice format even with accommodations. Student requires an evidence-based assessment to access state assessments.
Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST)	Student is instructed in grade level content, but routinely requires significant supports in instruction. Disability does not prevent the demonstration of knowledge through multiple choice formats, but significant supports are needed for access.
Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)	Student is not instructed in grade level content. Disability requires content that is reduced in depth and complexity.

Sample VMAST

Test Items

Additional Information about alternate assessments is available on the Virginia Department of Education Website at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative
_assessments/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/index.shtml)

Getting Ready ...

Graduation Planning Tips for Families



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #1**

Start planning early by selecting the diploma option that your student will be working towards. Decisions should be made after grade 8.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #2**

Make sure that you and your student are informed about the diploma requirements for the option. selected



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #3**

Attend your student's IEP or 504 meeting and be informed and active participants.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip # 4**

Make sure that the IEP or 504 plan goals, accommodations (if appropriate) and assessment decisions are in keeping with the diploma your student is working towards.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #5**

Don't forget as a parent or guardian, you are the only one that can give consent for the implementation of the IEP or 504 plan.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #6**

Keep a close tab on your student's academic progress including courses passed and state assessments.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #7**

Take action quickly if progress is not being made. Talk with your student, teachers, guidance counselor, or request an IEP or 504 meeting.



**Graduation
Planning
Tip #8**

If your student needs more time to earn standard and verified credit consider designing a program of studies that covers 4.5 or 5 years.

Additional Information

Procedures for the Participation of Students with Disabilities

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/participation_va_accountability_system.pdf

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Questions