

of Education remain in effect until such time as the local school board submits a request to the Board to amend or discontinue such requirements. ...

In March 2000, the Board of Education approved and grandfathered in additional graduation requirements that had been approved over the years in school divisions throughout Virginia. Since 2000, ten school divisions have been approved by the Board of Education to establish or amend additional graduation requirements for their students.

Currently, there are 48 school divisions that have been approved for additional graduation requirements. Some of the additional requirements may now be outdated. For example, four school divisions require students to complete a course in keyboarding in order to graduate. Four other school divisions require students to complete a one semester course in personal finance, and one requires a standard credit in personal finance, although these requirements have been superseded by the new provision in the Standards of Accreditation requiring a standard credit in economics and personal finance. Ten school divisions simply require students to earn additional unspecified electives. A list of the school divisions' additional graduation requirements is attached.

Summary of Major Elements: The Standards of Accreditation permit local school boards to submit a request to the Board of Education to amend or discontinue graduation requirements that have been prescribed by the local school board and approved by the Board of Education by submitting a request to the Board of Education. The following proposed guidance for the process by which these requests are reviewed and approved is as follows:

- Additional locally prescribed graduation requirements may be rescinded, so long as the school board's graduation requirements meet or exceed the current graduation requirements prescribed by the Board of Education in 8 VAC 20-131-50 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.
- The local school board must approve the request.
- A letter of request, which must be signed by the chairman of the school board and the superintendent, shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The letter must specify which locally prescribed requirements would be amended or discontinued, and must list the graduation requirements that would continue to be in effect.
- The Board of Education would delegate approval of these requests to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The criterion for approval would be that the graduation requirements remaining in effect would meet or exceed the current graduation requirements prescribed by the Board of Education.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the process by which local school boards may discontinue or amend additional locally approved graduation requirements, so long as the graduation requirements that remain in place continue to meet or exceed the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education in 8 VAC 20-131-50 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Upon adoption by the Board of Education, the Department of Education will distribute the guidance to local school divisions.

**LOCAL SCHOOL DIVISIONS AS GRANDFATHERED UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF 8 VAC 20-131-50 OF THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING
STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA**

1. Alleghany-Highlands (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: All students must complete one-half unit of credit in technology. No increase in the total number of credits.

2. Appomattox County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, to include two electives from among English, mathematics, science, social science, and/or foreign languages.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 27 units of credit to include two electives from among English, mathematics, science, social science, and/or foreign languages.

3. Bedford County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit. No specific courses required for the additional units of credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit. No specific courses required for the additional units of credit.

4. Botetourt County (2007)

- Standard Diploma: 26 units of credit, to include four additional electives.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include four additional electives.

5. Buckingham County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, including an additional four unspecified units of elective credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 27 units of credit, including three unspecified units of elective credit.

6. Charles City County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 23 units of credit, to include additional elective credit to be selected from among academics, fine arts, or vocational/technical education.

7. Chesterfield County (2000)

- The Mathematics and Science High School Diploma (optional, offered only at Clover Hill High School for students enrolled in this program): 28 units of credit, to include five units in mathematics above the level of Algebra I Honors; four units of science, with emphasis on all four disciplines of earth science, biology, chemistry and physics; four units of English; three units of foreign language; one unit in fine arts; two units of physical education; one unit in research/technology; and four electives.

8. Clarke County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: One additional unit of credit in history/social science. The number of elective credits available is reduced to five. No change in the total number of credits.

9. Craig County (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: An additional four units of credit. No specific courses required for the additional units of credit.

10. Cumberland County (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: A minimum of 28 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in history/social sciences and one course in keyboarding. All students must complete a senior project as an additional credit-bearing course requirement. No increase in the total number of credits.

11. Essex County (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: All students must complete a course in computer technology as an elective.

12. Fairfax County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: To meet the requirements in science, students must earn credit in three different disciplines from among earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics.

13. Franklin County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: One additional unit of credit in history/social science and one additional elective unit of credit. No specific courses required for the elective.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: Two additional units of elective credit. No specific courses required for the additional units of credit.

14. Gloucester County (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: All students must complete a one-semester course in keyboarding.

15. Greene County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the number of credits. All students must earn an additional unit of credit in history/social science, reducing the number of available electives to five units of credit. If students earn credit for graduation in 8th grade, a total of 26 units of credit is required. The additional units of credit are unspecified.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: No increase in the number of credits. Students must earn an additional unit of credit in history/social science, reducing the number of available electives to three units of credit. If students earn credit for graduation in 8th grade, a total of 28 units of credit is required. The additional units of credit are unspecified.

16. Halifax County (2008)

- Standard, Advanced Studies, and Modified Standard Diplomas: All students must successfully complete a one semester course in personal finance.

17. Hanover County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: An increase of one unit of credit to 23 units of credit. Students must earn an additional unit of credit in history/social science, reducing the number of available electives to three units of credit.

18. Henry County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, including an additional unit of credit in fine or practical arts and two units of credit in foreign language or technology.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 27 units of credit, including one additional unit of credit in fine or practical arts and two additional electives. Students must also complete three units of credit in foreign language.
- Superintendent's Advanced Studies Diploma of Distinction: 29 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in English, one additional unit in fine or practical arts, and three additional electives. Students must also complete three units of credit in foreign language.

19. Madison County (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: No increase in the number of credits. All students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the technology Standards of Learning test must complete a course in computer applications. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the eighth grade English writing test must complete an additional course in writing.

20. Montgomery County (2011)

- Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas: No increase in the total number of credits. Students must complete courses in both fine and performing arts and career and technical education.

21. Nelson County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 27 units of credit, to include an additional five units of unspecified elective credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 29 units of credit, to include an additional five units of unspecified elective credits.

22. New Kent County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the total number of credits required. Each student is required to complete an additional course in history/social science. The number of units of elective credit is reduced by one credit.

23. Northampton County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in keyboarding and two additional unspecified electives.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in keyboarding and five additional unspecified electives.

24. Nottoway County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, to include earth science and biology, an additional unit of credit in history/social science, and one additional elective. In addition, all students must complete a career major.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include units of credit in both fine and practical arts, three additional units of elective credit, and completion of a career major.

25. Patrick County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 26 units of credit, with an additional four units of unspecified elective credit required.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 28 units of credit, with an additional four units of unspecified elective credit required.

26. Prince Edward County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in history/social science, one additional fine or practical arts, and four unspecified elective credits. Students are also required to complete a vocational program within these requirements.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit, to include one additional fine or practical arts, one additional unit in foreign language (three years of one language and one year of another language, or two years each of two different languages) and four unspecified elective credits.

27. Prince George County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the total number of credits. Each student must complete an additional unit of credit in history/social science.

28. Pulaski County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 26 units of credit, to include an additional unit of credit in mathematics, an additional unit of credit in history/social science, and two additional units in fine or practical arts.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in fine or practical arts and three additional units of elective credit.

29. Roanoke County (2008)

- Standard, Advanced Studies, and Modified Standard Diplomas: All students must successfully complete a one semester course in personal finance.

30. Russell County (2007)

- Standard Diploma: 24 units of credit, to include two additional electives.
- Advanced studies Diploma: 26 units of credit, to include two additional electives.

31. Scott County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: An additional three units of unspecified elective credit for a total of 25 units of credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: An additional three units of unspecified elective credit for a total of 27 units of credit.

32. Smyth County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in computer technology and two additional units of unspecified elective credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 27 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in English composition, one unit of credit in computer technology, and one additional unit of unspecified elective credit.

33. Southampton County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include an additional six units of unspecified elective credit.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit, to include an additional six units of unspecified elective credit.
- Special Diploma: Unless otherwise specified by the student's IEP, the requirements for this diploma are the same as the standard diploma.

34. Spotsylvania County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the number of credits required. Students must complete an additional course in world studies, reducing the number of available electives to five. (NOTE: Approval given by Dr. LaPointe on December 18, 1996.)

35. Westmoreland County (2007)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in personal finance, two units of credit in career and technical education, and three additional electives.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in personal finance, two units of credit in career and technical education, and three additional electives.

36. York County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the number of credits required. Students must complete an additional course in world studies, reducing the number of available electives to five.

37. Bristol City (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: No increase in the total number of credits. All students must earn a unit of credit in keyboarding. (NOTE: The Board approved an additional unit of credit in history/social science for the Standard Diploma in July 1998).

38. Covington City (2000)

- Standard Diploma: One additional unit of credit, increasing the total to 23. Each student must complete a unit of credit in fine arts over and above the option provided.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: One additional unit of credit, increasing the total to 25. Each student must complete a unit of credit in fine arts over and above the option provided.

39. Galax City (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: No increase in the total number of credits. All students must earn a unit of credit in computer applications as an allocated elective.

40. Martinsville City (2006)

- Standard Diploma: 25 units of credit, to include an additional unit of credit in mathematics, an additional unit in history/social science, two units of credit in fine or practical arts, two units of credit in technology, two units of credit in foreign languages, and 40 hours of community service. The number of electives is reduced to two.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 30 units of credit, to include two units of credit in fine or practical arts, two units of credit in technology, five units of unspecified elective credits, and 40 hours of community service.

41. Petersburg City (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 23 units of credit to include one additional unit in history/social science.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 25 units of credit to include one additional unit of unspecified elective credit.

42. Richmond City (2000; Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies – 2009)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas (All schools except Richmond Community High School and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School): No increase in the total number of credits. All students must complete one-half unit of credit in computer science/computer literacy as an allocated elective.
- Richmond Community High School: 28 units of credit to include four credits in honors English (credits must be earned at RCHS; students who receive credit for 09A English in grade eight will graduate with five credits), four credits in honors mathematics (credit must be earned at RCHS - Algebra I through calculus/statistics), four credits in honors science (three credits in laboratory courses - ecology, chemistry, biology, physics), four credits in honors history/social science (world history, world geography, U. S. history, government), three credits in honors foreign languages (or two credits each in two languages), two credits in health and physical education (intermediate swimming proficiency and personal safety, drug and nutrition units required), two credits in arts (at least one credit in performing art - orchestra, band, choir, piano, guitar, harp, strings, theater), one credit in computer science/literacy, and one-half credit in each of the following: SAT preparation, summer orientation program (freshman and transfer students), community service (75 hours), major independent study project (must relate to area of concentration and be completed during the junior year), senior thesis, college/university course, and school of concentration courses.
- Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies: 31 units of credit to include four credits in English (World Literature I and II, American Literature 11, and British Literature 12), four credits in mathematics (through a minimum of trigonometry/analysis), four credits in science (including biology, chemistry, and physics), five credits in history/social science (Global Studies I and II, U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one elective), six credits in international languages with a minimum of four credits in one language and two credits in a second language), two credits in health and physical education, one credit in fine arts, one credit in economics and personal finance, one credit in Foundations of Independent Research and Communications, one credit in community service (minimum of 140 hours in four years), one credit in a senior seminar/mentorship, and one elective.

43. Salem City (2005)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: No increase in the total number of credits. Students must complete one-half unit of credit in personal finance and economics.

44. Virginia Beach City (2000)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: No increase in the total number of credits. Students must complete one-half unit of credit in fine arts and one-half unit of credit in practical arts.

45. Waynesboro City (2007)

- Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas: All students must successfully complete a course in finance incorporating the Board's objectives in economic education and financial literacy. This could be either a full year, credit bearing course for which the student would earn a standard credit, or a shorter, online course for which the student would not earn a standard credit.

46. Williamsburg City-James City County (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in history/social science, one unit of credit in a foreign language, one unit of credit in technology, and three additional credits from specialized elective clusters from among fine arts, humanities, mathematics, science, business and marketing, human services, trades and industry, and technology.
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 28 units of credit, to include one unit of credit in fine arts, one unit of credit in technology, and three additional specialized elective clusters from among fine arts, humanities, mathematics, science, business and marketing, human services, trades and industry, and technology (this presumes that the student completes three years of one foreign language as opposed to two years each of two languages. The student who completes two years of two languages will be required to earn a total of 29 units of credit.).
(NOTE: These requirements were submitted for approval in 1996. No action was taken on the request.)

47. Winchester City (2000)

- Standard Diploma: 24 units of credit, to include one additional unit of credit in history/social science and two additional units in physical education. All students complete four units of credit in health and physical education (three in physical education and one in health). Students must also complete either a Tech Prep Program or career major. (NOTE: Approval for the one additional unit in history/social science was granted by the Board in 1998).
- Advanced Studies Diploma: 24 units of credit, to include two additional units in physical education. All students complete four units of credit in health and physical education (three in physical education and one in health). Students may not have elective credit available.
- Special Diploma: 24 units of credit, to include four units of credit in English, three units of credit in mathematics, two units of credit in history/social science, one unit of credit in science, two units of credit in physical education, one unit of credit in health, one unit of credit in job training, and ten units of elective credit (mostly job training). (NOTE: The Standards of Quality require that students with disabilities be awarded a Special Diploma if they complete the requirements of their IEP. No specific course requirements are outlined.)

48. Town of Colonial Beach (2000)

- Standard Diploma: No increase in the total number of credits. All students must complete four units of credit in history/social science.