

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the ninth grade for the first time. Students may be awarded a diploma or certificate upon graduation from a Virginia high school. If a student earns credit for a class prior to the ninth grade and decides to repeat the class at the high school, the student will receive the grade (credit) earned at the high school. **Grades earned prior to ninth grade will not be included in determining grade point average (GPA) or rank in class.**

The resources listed at [VA Dept. of Education](#) website explain Virginia's graduation requirements and the many options now available to students for earning a high school diploma. You also will find information on how students can get even more out of their high school experience by accepting the challenge of advanced courses.

Here are some of the terminologies and the different levels of high school diploma:

Verified Credit - A verified unit of credit for graduation shall be based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, passing/successful completion of the requirements of the course, and the achievement by the student of a passing score on the End-of-Course Standards of Learning (SOL) test for that course.

Standard Credit – A standard unit of credit for graduation shall be based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and passing/successful completion of the requirements of the course.

Standard Diploma - Students awarded a Standard Diploma shall earn 22 specific standard units of credit and the following number of verified units of credit: two English, one mathematics, one laboratory science, one history/social science, and one verified unit of credit of the student's choice. All students will fulfill a sequential vocational program meeting state requirements for a marketable skill or will take a program of studies preparing them for further education.

Advanced Studies Diploma - Students awarded an Advanced Studies Diploma shall earn 28 specific standard units of credit and the following number of verified units of credit: two English, two mathematics, two laboratory science, two history/social science, and one verified unit of credit of the student's choice.

Modified Standard Diploma - The Modified Standard Diploma is intended for students at the secondary level who have a documented disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team and the student, where appropriate, at any point after the student's eighth grade year. The school must secure the written consent of the parent/guardian and the student to choose this diploma program after review of the student's academic history and the full disclosure of the student's options. The student who has chosen to pursue a Modified Standard Diploma shall also be allowed to pursue the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma at any time throughout that student's high school career. The student must not be excluded from courses and tests required to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.

Students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma must pass the Grade 8 English: Literacy/ Language SOL and the Grade 8 Math SOL as prescribed by the State Board of Education. Students in a Modified Standard Diploma program who are enrolled in a course that requires an end-of-course SOL test must take the test, but they do not have to pass the SOL test to satisfy the requirement for this diploma.

The Modified Standard Diploma will not be an option for students with disabilities who enter the ninth grade for the first time beginning in 2013-2014.

Special Diploma - In accordance with the requirements of the Standards of Quality, students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded **Special Diplomas**. In accordance with the requirements of the Standards of Quality, students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by the local school board but do not qualify for diplomas shall be awarded **Certificates of Program Completion**.

In accordance with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law and *Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates*, students who do not qualify for diplomas may earn a high school equivalency certificate or a General Achievement Diploma.

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a Standard Diploma, a student shall be enrolled in a Virginia public school system and have earned a minimum of **22** credits that include the following:

DISCIPLINE AREA	STANDARD UNITS OF CREDIT REQUIRED	VERIFIED UNITS OF CREDIT REQUIRED
ENGLISH	4 credits ✓ English 9, 10, 11 & 12	2 credits
MATHEMATICS	3 credits ✓ 1 at or above Algebra ✓ 2 Algebra I, II or Geometry	1 credit
LABORATORY SCIENCE	3 credits ✓ At least 2 from Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics	1 credit
HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES	3 credits ✓ 1 US & VA History ✓ 1 US & VA Government ✓ 1 World History	1 credit
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2 credits	0
FOREIGN LANGUAGE, FINE ARTS OR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	2 credits	0
ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE	1 credit	0
ELECTIVES	4 credits ✓ At least 2 sequential electives	0
ONE STUDENT SELECTED TEST		
TOTAL	22 CREDITS	6 CREDITS

KING GEORGE COUNTY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Below are the graduation requirements for King George County Public Schools posted on [King George High School Program of Studies](#) for Standard Diploma.

This list is for students entering 9TH Grade in 2011-2012 and beyond. For more information, please see the King George High School Counseling Department [website](#).

DISCIPLINE AREA	STANDARDS UNITS OF CREDITS REQUIRED	VERIFIED UNITS OF CREDIT REQUIRED
ENGLISH	4 credits	2
MATHEMATICS	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 at or above Algebra ✓ 2 from Algebra I, II or Geometry 	1
LABORATORY SCIENCE	3 credits	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 from Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics ✓ 1 from other Lab Sciences 	
HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ US & VA History ✓ US & VA Government ✓ World History I, II or World Geography 	1
FOREIGN LANGUAGE, FINE ARTS OR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	2 credits	0
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2 credits	0
ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE	1 credit	0
ELECTIVES	4 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least 2 sequential credits 	0
		1 of student's choice
TOTAL	22 credits	6 credits

Beginning with students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-2014, a student must also:

- ☑ Earn a board-approved career and technical education credential to graduate with a Standard Diploma; and
- ☑ Successfully complete one virtual course. At KGHS, Economics and Personal Finance fulfills this requirement.