

**Virginia Board of Education – Committee on School and Division Accountability  
Summary of Concepts for the Comprehensive Review of the Standards of Accreditation**

<b>SOA Part/Section</b>	<b>Issue/ Discussion Point</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Justification</b>
8VAC20-131-50	<p><b>Retaining references to Board of Education diploma seals and other awards but providing the specific criteria for the seals and other awards in Board-approved guidelines, rather than within the body of the SOA.</b> At present, this section of the regulation sets forth the criteria for awarding five distinct diploma seals – the Governor's Seal; the Board of Education Seal; the Board of Education's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Seal; the Board of Education's Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology; and the Board of Education's Seal for Excellence in Civics Education. Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:4 requires the Board to establish criteria for awarding the Career and Technical Education, Advanced Mathematics and Technology, and Excellence in Civics</p>	<p>Staff recommends that this section of the regulation be streamlined to remove the specific criteria for each diploma seal and that such criteria instead be established in guidelines adopted by the Board. This approach will provide the Board with maximum flexibility to amend the criteria as needed. Possible language is shown below.</p> <p>H. Awards for exemplary student performance. Students who demonstrate academic excellence and/or outstanding achievement may be eligible for one or more of the following awards <i>in accordance with criteria established in guidelines adopted by the Board of Education</i>: the Governor's Seal; <i>the</i> Board of Education Seal; the Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Seal; the Board of Education's Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology; the Board of Education's Seal for Excellence in Civics Education; <i>the Board of Education's Seal of</i></p>	<p>The Board has the authority to recognize exemplary academic performance by providing for diploma seals that are not required by statute. At this time, there are diploma seals that pertain to CTE, mathematics and technology and civics and soon there will be a diploma seal of biliteracy. By streamlining the language in this section of the regulation to remove the specific criteria for each of the seals and instead establishing such criteria in Board-approved guidelines, the Board will have more flexibility to make changes to the criteria, as needed, over time. The Governor's and Board of Education's seals are not specifically addressed in statute. Legislation adopted by the 2015 General Assembly requires the Board to add a seal of biliteracy.</p> <p>HB 1351 and SB 916 (2015) direct the Board to establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy and require the Board to establish criteria for awarding it in time for any student graduating from a public high school in the Commonwealth in 2016 to be awarded such a diploma</p>

	<p>Education. However, the statute does not require that the criteria for such seals be set forth in regulation.</p>	<p><u><i>Biliteracy; and any additional diploma seals or awards designated by the Board.</i></u></p> <p><del>6.</del> Students may receive other seals or awards for exceptional academic, career and technical, citizenship, or other exemplary performance in accordance with criteria defined by the local school board.</p>	<p>seal. Therefore, the recommended amendment to add a seal for biliteracy is made to comport with 2015 legislation.</p>
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