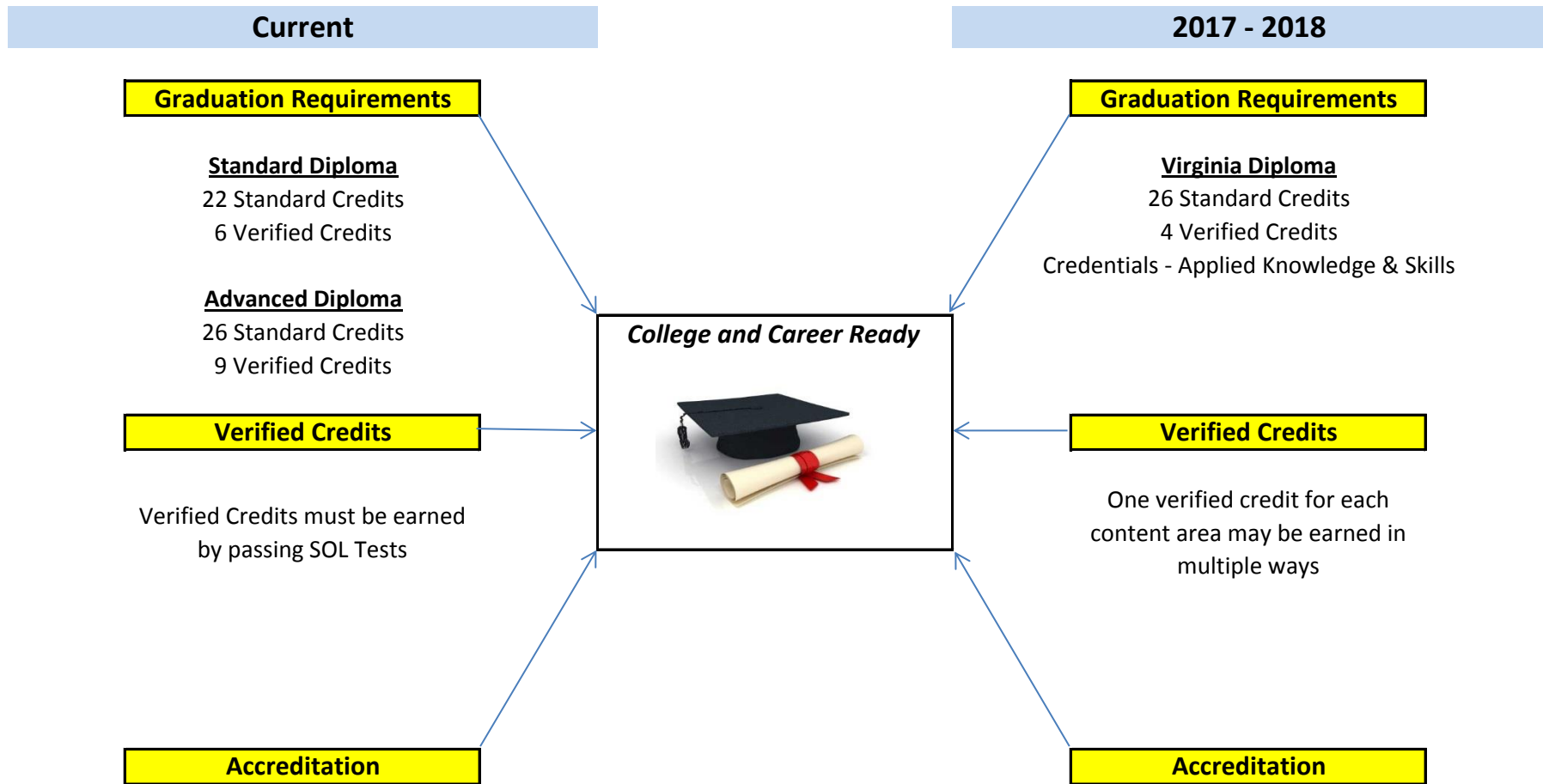


The *Virginia Diploma* will better prepare students for success in college, career, and citizenship



Virginia Diploma		
Discipline Area	Standard Credits*	Verified Credits
English (Note 1)	4	1
Mathematics (Note 2)	4	1
Laboratory Science (Note 3)	4	1
History & Social Science (Note 4)	4	1
Foreign Languages, Fine Arts, or Career & Technical Education (Note 5)	4	
Health & Physical Education	2	
Electives	3	
Applied Knowledge & Skills (Note 6)	1	
Total	26	4

*Credits may be earned in different methods such as completing a course, completing work samples, or earning credentials.

Note 1

- English 11 credit may be earned by taking American Studies.

Note 2

- Credit accommodations would continue to be offered that include the ability to take Algebra I and Geometry each in two parts for a total of four credits and satisfying mathematics graduation requirements;
- Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include
 - Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis
 - Either
 - One Board approved mathematics course at or above the level of Algebra II; or
 - A locally-approved course that requires mathematical thinking and problem solving⁺

⁺Courses in mathematical thinking and problem solving may include, but are not limited to courses in the areas of computer science, computer programming, engineering, accounting, finance, or other courses approved by a local school division Board.

Note 3

- Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include;
 - course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: Earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.
 - Computer Science or sequential career and technical education courses from an associated STEM pathway may be used to meet one of these requirements.

Note 4

- Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The Board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. The United States and Virginia History credit may be earned as part of the American Studies curriculum. Economics and Personal Finance may be used to satisfy one of these credits.

Note 5

- Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.
- Credits earned for this requirement shall include at least one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.

Note 6

Applied Knowledge and Skills Credential

- Demonstrated application of knowledge in the 5 Cs in subject areas of the student’s choice within the domains established by the Board of Education—preferably in a researched career path as part of Academic Plan.
- A combination of applied knowledge and learning credentials leads to the earning of a standard credit. Credentials can be “stacked,” beginning in middle school.
- The Academic Plan of the student should be initiated in middle school and include the work-based experiences, internships, independent studies, student projects, and other such experiences designed to demonstrate applied knowledge and learning.
- Students will complete this credit by earning identified credentials in the *College & Career Readiness* areas of **Career Pathways**, **Community Engagement**, and **Workplace Skills** (Including use of effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and citizenship.)

Career Pathways

- Demonstrating Workplace Readiness Skills: Personal Qualities and People Skills
- Demonstrating Workplace Readiness Skills: Professional Knowledge and Skills
- Demonstrating Workplace Readiness Skills: Technology Knowledge and Skills
- Addressing Elements of Student Life
- Discovering More About Yourself
- Exploring Career Plan Options and Possible Destinations
- Developing an Academic and Career Plan

Community Engagement

- Makes connections and involvement in the community – community service, internship, volunteering, or apprenticeship
- Demonstrates self-advocacy with consideration of other, behaves honestly and ethically, takes responsibility for actions, attends to personal health and wellness
- Shows respect for diversity of individuals, groups and cultures

Workplace Skills

- Attains and demonstrates productive work ethic and professionalism
- Uses effective communication and interpersonal skills to interact and collaborate both individually and in groups
- Implements workplace readiness skills of personal qualities and professional knowledge in a variety of settings and audiences

Verified Credits

Each student in secondary schools shall earn four verified credits, one in math, English, science, and history and social science . Students may earn the verified credit in two ways:

- 1) Passing an end-of-course standards of learning test in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available.
- 2) Meeting locally developed criteria following Virginia Board of Education guidelines that defines criteria for work such as independent study, work sample portfolio, demonstrated performance, and locally developed performance assessments.
 - a) Evidence must encompass a comprehensive assemblage of media products, artifacts, and performance that demonstrate a student has mastered academically rigorous material and meets or exceeds approved learning standards, competencies, or objectives for the course.
 - b) The required content and evaluative criteria for the products must be defined prior to the advent of student work and based on the same objectives as the standard course.
 - c) The assemblage of evidence and overall process must be managed by a licensed and endorsed teacher (in the area of the coursework) with an agreed-upon series of program checkpoints throughout a specified timeline for the study.
 - d) The school division must determine whether the aggregate work: (a) is of commensurate depth and quality as work performed in the traditional secondary classroom; and (b) meets predefined evaluative criteria shared with the student.
 - e) A student must meet a predefined performance level on a locally-developed assessment for the coursework. This may be an oral examination, performance (e.g., recital/concert), written test, or some other objective tool or process developed by the school division.

Discipline Area	Standard Diploma		Advanced Diploma		Virginia Diploma	
	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2	4	2	4	1
Mathematics	3	1	4	2	4	1
Laboratory Science	3	1	4	2	4	1
History & Social Sciences	3	1	4	2	4	1
Health & Physical Education	2		2		2	
Foreign Languages			3			
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education			1			
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	2				4	
Economics and Personal Finance	1		1		(*Note 1)	
Electives	4		3		3	
Student Selected Test		1		1		
Applied Knowledge & Skills					1	
Total	22	6	26	9	26	4

*Note 1 Economics and Personal Finance is a required course for graduation but may be used to satisfy one of the History & Social Sciences credits.

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