



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: July 6, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Virtual Course Graduation Requirement**

During the 2012 session of the Virginia General Assembly, legislation was approved that directed the Board of Education to modify the credits necessary for a student to earn a Standard or an Advanced Studies diploma. Among the modifications made was the successful completion of one virtual course by a student in order to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma. The requirement went into effect with students entering the ninth-grade class for the first time in 2013-2014.

The Board of Education's *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, at [8VAC20-131-50.B.2 and C.2](#) ➡, and [8VAC20-131-51.B.2 and C.2](#) ➡, accordingly requires students to successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit bearing course, or other course required to earn a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma that is offered online. The virtual course graduation requirement is not necessary for a Modified Standard diploma.

In response to changes in virtual learning options available to students, the Virginia Department of Education provides additional guidance to school divisions regarding the graduation requirement in the attached document.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Timothy Ellis, Computer Science & Virtual Learning Specialist, by email at timothy.ellis@doe.virginia.gov ✉ or by telephone at (804) 225-3489.

JFL/MS/ce

Attachment:

- A. [Guidance on Virtual Course Requirement for Graduation](#) (Word)