

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF WAIVER

Albemarle County Public Schools

401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903

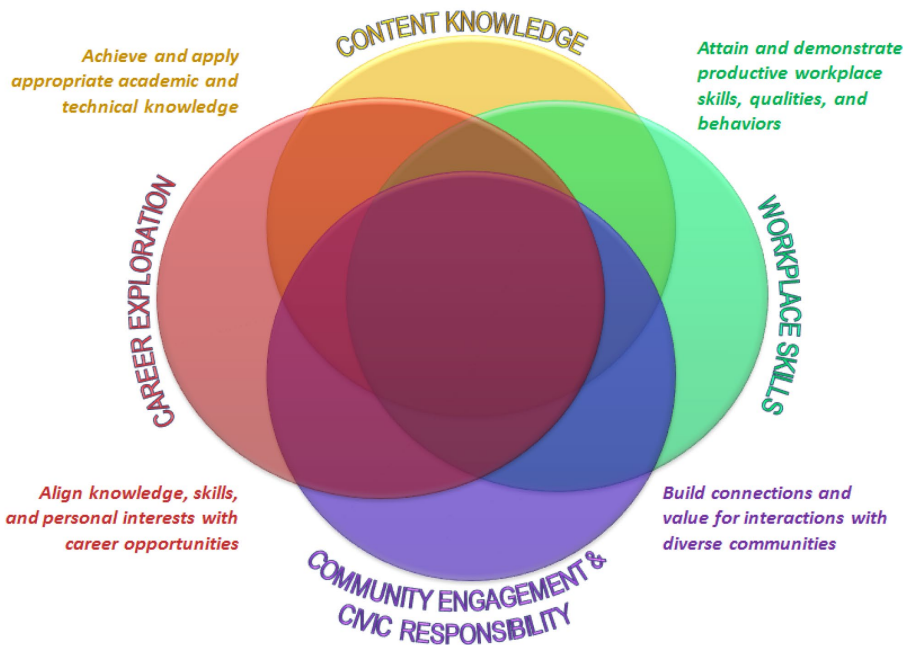
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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Profile of a Virginia Graduate
In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual Will,
During His or Her K-12 Educational Experience:



OUR REQUEST

Extension of waiver from 8 VAC 20-160-50

Allow GPA weight to be removed from
Advanced Placements (AP) and International
Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN OPERATING PRINCIPLES

High -Quality Learning Experiences

- Ensure equitable access and opportunity for all students
- Use fair and meaningful assessments
- Implement flexible scheduling to support student -centered learning
- Encourage students to explore their interests and passions for course credit

High -quality learning experiences are:

- Accessible to all
- Student -designed
- Interdisciplinary
- Community Oriented
- Fostering life, career, and citizen success
- Mentored
- Authentic





LEARNING FOR ALL

VISION

Our learners are engaged in authentic, challenging, and relevant learning experiences, becoming lifelong contributors and leaders in our dynamic and diverse society.

MISSION

Working together as a team, we will end the predictive value of race, class, gender, and special capacities for our children's success through high quality teaching and learning for all. We seek to build relationships with families and communities to ensure that every student succeeds.

We will know every student.

VALUES

Equity: Provide every student with the level of support necessary to thrive.

Excellence: Mitigate barriers and provide opportunities for every student to be successful.

Family and Community: Engage with and share the responsibility for student success with families and community partners.

Wellness: Support the physical and emotional health of students and staff.

GOALS

Thriving Students
Affirming and Empowering Communities
Equitable, Transformative Resources

REQUEST: EXTENSION OF WAIVER TO REMOVE GPA WEIGHTS

CONNECTION TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Facilitate learning experiences
grounded in high
expectations, networks of
care, and student curiosity

Supports the physical and
mental health of our students,
staff, and families

CONNECTION TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Encourage students to
explore their interests and
passions for course credit.

THE PROBLEM

Weighting of courses provides
a distinct disincentive for
students to pursue their
personal interests.

OUR RESEARCH ON GRADE WEIGHTING

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program Survey | 40% of parents responded that we should change the AP Program.

Top 2 suggestions:

1. Eliminate weight
2. Limit the number students can take

Student Focus Groups | Students suggested we should eliminate weight as a means to:

1. Increase participation in other activities
2. Promote balance

COMMUNITY SURVEY

We heard from more than 1,600 parents, students, teachers, and school counselors and administrators.

- **70.6%** believe that the current practice of weighting grades motivates students to take as many AP courses as possible
- **58.8%** believe that the current practice of weighting grades discourages students from taking unweighted elective courses that interest them

OUR WORK SO FAR

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

- The pandemic has highlighted the need for more intense social and emotional support for our staff and students.
- Reduction of student stress and increased student choice in class offerings since everything is weighted the same

CLASS OF 2026

- Got the blessing of the BOE first and then built support in the community
- Multiple family and student input meetings at each middle school
- Removed weights from middle school courses taken for high school credit in the 2020-2021 school year
- Meetings with high school staff



POTENTIAL INDICATORS TO MONITOR

Remove GPA weights

- Course enrollment data
- Student surveys
- Student climate data — Panorama and state climate survey
- Mental health referrals

YOU INSPIRED US

Now we're ready to
walk through the door.

