

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

VIRGINIA WORKFORCE LETTER (VWL) #11-07

TO: LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS

FROM: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SUBJECT: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS OR EQUIVALENTS

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2011

Purpose:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding high school diplomas or equivalents that are recognized by the Virginia Department of Education. These will be used in calculating the credential attainment rate for adults and dislocated workers and the youth attainment of degree or certificate.

The following is a list of Virginia Department of Education-recognized high school diplomas or equivalents:

Standard Diploma

- To graduate with a Standard Diploma, a student must earn at least 22 standard units of credit by passing required courses and electives, and earn at least six verified credits by passing end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the Board of Education.

Modified Standard Diploma

- The Modified Standard Diploma is intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the program are determined by the student's IEP team and the student, when appropriate. Decisions of eligibility and participation may be made at any point after the student's eighth grade year. Written consent from parent/guardian must be obtained for a student to choose this diploma program.

Advanced Studies Diploma

- To graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma, a student must earn at least 24 standard units of credit and at least nine verified units of credit. The school counselor can advise on available courses to fulfill the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma.

Technical Diploma, Standard

- Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2011-2012 and beyond, a student may earn a Standard Technical Diploma. Specific information on the requirements is available in paragraph C of 8VAC 20-131-50.

Technical Diploma, Advanced

- Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2011-2012 and beyond. Specific information on the requirements is available in paragraph E of 8VAC 20-131-50.

Special Diploma

- Available to students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their IEP and who do not meet the requirements for other diplomas.

General Achievement Diploma

- The requirements for the General Achievement Diploma include prescribed standard units of credit and a passing score on the General Educational Development (GED) examination. Standard credits required for the General Achievement Diploma may be earned in a variety of educational settings: a public school; a community college or other institution of higher education; an adult high school program; or correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.

General Education Development (“GED”) Certificate

- Refer to Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates (8 VAC 20-360-10, et. seq.)

NOTE: A “Certificate of Completion” or “Certificate of Attendance” is **not** the equivalent of a high school diploma. This Certificate is available to students who complete prescribed programs of studies defined by a local school board but **who do not qualify for diplomas.**