

Special Education Graduation Requirements/Diploma Credit Accommodations

(VA Reg. 8 VAC 20-131-50 and 8 VAC 20-131-51)

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student **enters grade 9 for the first time**. Students working towards either a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma must earn the required number of standard and verified credits.

- **Standard credit** is earned when a student passes a course.
- **Verified credit** A verified credit is earned when a student passes a course and either the associated end-of-course SOL test or an authentic performance assessment in the areas of history and social sciences and English (writing). In some cases, students may utilize substitute tests, certifications, or the appeal process to earn verified credits.

Graduation Requirements

For more detailed information on diplomas, graduation requirements, and course planning options, visit the link based upon student's year of entry to grade 9:

For more information regarding students entering the ninth grade in 2018-2019 and beyond see link below:

<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/AccessibleGradReqs201819andBeyond.pdf>

For more information regarding students who entered ninth grade in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018 see link below:

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/graduation-requirements-and-course-planning>

Diploma Options

- Applied Studies Diploma
- Standard Diploma
- Advanced Studies Diploma

Students who graduate with an Applied Studies Diploma are eligible to receive services in the FCPS system through the school year they turn 22 years of age, if they have not reached their 22nd birthday by September 30. Students with an individualized education program (IEP) who graduate with a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma are no longer eligible to receive special education services after graduation.

Applied Studies Diploma

Students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their IEP and do not meet requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded an Applied Studies Diploma. Additional information regarding postsecondary options for students earning an Applied Studies Diploma may be accessed on the following FCPS website:

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/special-education-instruction/career-and-transition-services/earning>.

Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations

In addition to the options all students have for earning the standard and verified credits required for earning a Standard Diploma, students with disabilities may be considered for additional credit accommodations. IEP teams and 504 Knowledgeable Committees must consider the credit accommodations criteria prior to indicating which credit accommodations a student will be considered for or receive.

<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/se353.pdf>

Advanced Studies Diploma Credit Accommodations

There is one credit accommodation available for the Advanced Studies Diploma. This alternative for students to meet the World Language requirement is available to students with an IEP that specifies a credit accommodation for world languages.

World Language course substitution for students with an IEP are available to:

- students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-2019 school year,
- who are pursuing an Advanced Studies Diploma, and
- whose IEP specifies eligibility for a credit accommodation in World Language.

Eligible students may substitute up to two standard units of credit in computer science for two standard units of credit in a world language. The IEP team will determine the number of course substitutions appropriate for the student.

Note: Course substitution may impact college entrance/completion requirements; check with your school counselor.

Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Process		
Category	Credit Accommodation	Requirements
Used for earning Standard Credits	Use of Part 1 courses to meet core credit requirements: Algebra 1, Part 1 Geometry, Part 1 Biology 1, Part 1	Take and pass both the part 1 course and the level course to receive two standard credits in the content area, for example, taking and passing Algebra 1, Part 1 and Algebra 1 provides the student with 2 standard credits in mathematics
	Use of Personal Living and Finance (3120) to satisfy the Economics and Personal Finance requirement.	Take and pass course to receive the standard credit
Used for earning Verified Credits	Expanded expedited retake range (SOL score 350-374)	The score the student receives after retaking the SOL will determine possible next steps
	Use of as many Locally Awarded Verified Credits (LAVC) as needed to meet verified credit requirements towards graduation (SOL score 375-399)	Once this option is selected and the student has passed the class, a committee at the school considers if the LAVC will be awarded
	Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit-Accommodation (SPLAVC-A) (SOL score below 375)	Selecting the SPLAVC-A starts the process outlined below
None	Credit accommodations will be identified at a later date	The team can consider the criteria and write a justification statement and then decide to select the necessary credit accommodations at a later meeting

Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit-Accommodation (SPLAVC-A) Consideration

IEP Team or 504 Knowledgeable Committee	1. The team considers the SPLAVC-A criteria: https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/se353.pdf . This form needs to be completed for each verified credit considered.
School Team	2. Staff at the school complete a spreadsheet with required information: https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/794/637943782802300000 (Excel)
Central Office	3. Staff in central office verify the information in the spreadsheet and submit the spreadsheet to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).
Virginia Department of Education	4. The VDOE provides approval for moving forward with consideration of Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC) or requests more information. When the VDOE provides approval to move forward, the process continues to step 6.
School Team	5. Staff at the school complete the <i>Request for Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit-Accommodation</i> form. 6. The LAVC committee at the school considers awarding the LAVC. The LAVC committee will respond to the request by indicating one of the following: request granted, request denied, recommended additional test remediation and retesting, or request additional academic assignments for committee review.

Additional information regarding Standard Diploma credit accommodations for students with disabilities is available on the Virginia Department of Education website: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/parents-students/for-students/graduation/graduation-requirement-resources/credit-accommodations>.

Fairfax County Public Schools Contact Information

Please contact the following offices with additional questions/concerns:

Office of Special Education Instruction: 571-423-4100
Career and Transition Services: 571-423-4150

Due Process and Eligibility: 571-423-4470
School Counseling: 571-423-4420