

# Graduation Requirements

The Virginia Board of Education sets forth requirements for students associated with the year the student entered 9th grade for the first time. The diploma options available to students can be found, organized by the year the student entered 9th grade for the first time, in the following section. Students will meet with their school counselor each year to update their Academic and Career Plan (ACP) and diploma type.

## Standard Diploma

**22 Standard Credits, 6 Verified Credits:** Students who enter 9th grade **prior to 2018-19**

Standard Diploma for students who enter 9th grade prior to 2018-19.

Course	Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Courses shall include English 9, 10, 11, and 12 or an advanced equivalent.
Math	3	1	Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra Functions and Data Analysis; Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II
Science	3	1	Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma.
Social Studies	3	1	Courses shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government and one of the following: World History to 1500; World History from 1500.
Health and Physical Education	2	1	<b>CPR/First Aid/AED Training</b> Courses shall include Health PE I and II. *Students will meet the CPR/First Aid/AED Training requirement while enrolled in an HPE I and II course in Prince William County Public Schools.
Economics/Personal Finance (Virtual course component included)	1		Students will meet the Virtual Course graduation requirement after taking and passing this course in a Prince William County Public School.
Electives	6		Credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or Career and Technical Education. A computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a Career and Technical Education course credit. Courses shall also include two electives which are sequential. The World Language, Fine Arts, or Career and Technical Education course credit may be used to partially satisfy the sequential elective requirement. <b>CTE Credentialing Exam:</b> Students must take and pass a Career and Technical Education credentialing exam that has been approved by the Virginia Board of Education.
Other Requirements			<b>1 Student Selected Verified Credit:</b> This verified credit may be earned by passing an SOL test and the corresponding course in any subject area. A student may also utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, Career and Technical Education, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.

\*Students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 2016-17 school year do not need to meet this requirement.

## Advanced Studies Diploma

**26 Standard Credits, 9 Verified Credits:** Students who enter 9th grade **prior to 2018-19**

Advanced Studies Diploma for students who enter 9th grade prior to 2018-19.

Course	Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Courses shall include English 9, 10, 11, and 12 or an advanced equivalent.
Math	4	2	Courses shall include at least three different course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.
Science	4	2	Courses shall include at least three different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma.
Social Studies	4	2	Courses shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and both World History to 1500 and World History from 1500; World Geography may be accepted as one of the required World History courses for transfer students.

Course	Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
World Language	3 or 4		Courses shall include three years of one language or two years each of two languages. <b>CPR/First Aid/AED Training*</b>
Health and Physical Education	2		Courses shall include Health PE I and II. *Students will meet the CPR/First Aid/AED Training requirement while enrolled in an HPE I and II course in Prince William County Public Schools.
Economics/ Personal Finance ( <i>Virtual course component included</i> )	1		Students will meet the Virtual Course graduation requirement after taking and passing this course in a Prince William County Public School.
Electives	3 or 4		One elective must be a Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education course. <b>1 Student Selected Verified Credit:</b> This verified credit may be earned by passing an SOL test and the corresponding course in any subject area. A student may also utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.
Other Requirements			

\*Students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 2016-17 school year do not need to meet this requirement.

## Standard Diploma

**22 Standard Credits, 5 Verified Credits:** Students who enter 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond

Standard Diploma for students who enter 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond.

Course	Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Courses shall include English 9, 10, 11, and 12 or an advanced equivalent.
Math	3	1	Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra Functions and Data Analysis; Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.
Science	3	1	Courses shall include at least two different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma.
Social Studies	3	1	Courses shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one of the following: World History to 1500; World History from 1500.
Health and Physical Education	2		<b>CPR/First Aid/AED Training</b> Courses shall include Health PE I and II. *Students will meet the CPR/First Aid/AED Training requirement while enrolled in an HPE I and II course in Prince William County Public Schools.
Economics/ Personal Finance ( <i>Virtual course component included</i> )	1		Students will meet the Virtual Course graduation requirement after taking and passing this course in a Prince William County Public School.
Students can satisfy the sequential elective requirement with any two credits that demonstrate a progression in the study of a specific field (not two introductory courses) from any discipline.			
The two sequential electives may be in any discipline as long as the courses are not specifically required for graduation in 8VAC20-131-51 of the standards. Students may take the focused sequence of elective courses in consecutive years or any two years of high school.			
Electives	6		In addition to the two required sequential elective credits, students will need to satisfy the World Language/Fine and Performing Arts/CTE requirement by taking any of the following combinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One World Language credit and one Fine and Performing Arts credit.</li> <li>• One World Language credit and one CTE credit.</li> <li>• Two CTE credits.</li> <li>• Two Fine and Performing Arts credits.</li> <li>• One CTE and one Fine and Performing Arts credit.</li> </ul> <b>CTE Credentialing Exam:</b> Students must take and pass a Career and Technical Education credentialing exam that has been approved by the Virginia Board of Education
Other Requirements			Or <b>Take one advanced course during their high school career.</b> An advanced course can be defined as any AP/Advanced, IB/Pre-IB, AICE/IGSCE course, or dual enrollment.

# Advanced Studies Diploma

**26 Standard Credits, 5 Verified Credits:** Students who enter 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond

Advanced Studies Diploma for students who enter 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond.

Course	Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Courses shall include English 9, 10, 11, and 12 or an advanced equivalent.
Math	4	1	Courses shall include at least three different course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.
Science	4	1	Courses shall include at least three different course selections from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the IB Diploma.
Social Studies	4	1	Courses shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and both World History to 1500 and World History from 1500; World Geography may be accepted as one of the required World History courses for transfer students.
World Language	3 or 4		Students can satisfy the World Language requirement for the Advanced Diploma with either three years of one language or two years each of two languages.
Health and Physical Education	2		<b>CPR/First Aid/AED Training</b> Courses shall include Health PE I and II. *Students will meet the CPR/First Aid/AED Training requirement while enrolled in an HPE I and II course in Prince William County Public Schools.
Economics/Personal Finance (Virtual course component included)	1		Students will meet the Virtual Course graduation requirement after taking and passing this course in a Prince William County Public School.
Electives	3 or 4		Students can satisfy the sequential elective requirement with any two of the three required elective credits that demonstrate a progression in the study of a specific field (not two introductory courses) from any discipline.  The two sequential electives may be in any discipline as long as the courses are not specifically required for graduation in 8VAC20-131-51 of the standards. Students may take the focused sequence of elective courses in consecutive years or any two years of high school.  Students can satisfy the World Language requirement for the Advanced Diploma with either three years of one language or two years each of two languages.  If using World Language courses to meet both the sequential elective requirement and the World Language graduation requirement for an Advanced Studies diploma, students would need a total of five credits in World Language; either five credits of the same language, or (if taking two different languages) two credits of one language and three credits of another language.  <b>CTE Credentialing Exam:</b> Students must take and pass a Career and Technical Education credentialing exam that has been approved by the Virginia Board of Education
Other Requirements			<b>Or</b> <b>Take one advanced course during their high school career.</b> An advanced course can be defined as any AP/Advanced, IB/Pre-IB, AICE/IGSCE course, or dual enrollment.

## Graduation Requirements

### Diploma Options For Students With An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Or 504 Plan

Students with disabilities who have an IEP or 504 plan are encouraged to pursue the Advanced Studies or Standard Diploma. The IEP or 504 team will work with students and their families to determine the appropriate individual path to graduation for the student.

### Credit Accommodations

Students entering 9th grade for the first time in 2013-14 and beyond are eligible to pursue an Advanced Studies Diploma, Standard Diploma, or Applied Studies Diploma. These students who would have previously been candidates for the Modified Standard Diploma may use credit accommodations to earn the Standard Diploma if they meet the

following eligibility requirements (i) the student has a current IEP or 504 plan with standards-based content goals; (ii) the student has a disability that precludes him or her from achieving and progressing commensurate with grade level expectation, but is learning grade level content; (iii) the student needs significant instructional supports to access grade level Standards of Learning (SOL) content and to show progress; and (iv) based on multiple objective measures of past performance, student might not be expected to achieve the required standard and verified units of credit within the standard time frame. Credit accommodations shall be determined and documented by the student's IEP team or 504 plan committee, including the student where appropriate, at any point after the student's eighth grade year.

## Applied Studies Diploma (For Students With An IEP)

Courses Needed: Students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded the Applied Studies Diploma.

## Transition Services (For Students With An IEP)\*

Realizing successful post-secondary outcomes is a goal PWCS has for all students. Depending on the severity of disability and the support services required in adult life, successful transition from high school to adult life may require that planning activities begin in elementary school with students exploring their interests in middle school. Starting the process early prepares students with disabilities to think about what they want to be able to do in adult life. High school transition planning includes exploring post-secondary opportunities and employment options and may include connecting with the adult service agencies that may provide the student with services.

## Statement Of Needed Transition Services - Beginning No Later Than The First IEP Developed When The Eligible Student Is 14.

Recognizing the need for students with disabilities to engage in effective transition planning, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that transition planning be part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Beginning no later than the first IEP developed when the eligible student is 14, the Team considers the student's need for transition services and documents this discussion. If appropriate, the IEP includes a statement of needed transition services. Such documentation must be reviewed and updated annually thereafter. Students must be invited to all meetings and allowed to participate actively when transition planning is discussed and are encouraged to actively participate.

## Linkages To Post School Options - Beginning No Later Than The First IEP Developed When The Eligible Student Is 14 And Update Annually.

Beginning no later than the first IEP developed when the eligible student is 14, the IEP's of students should include a post school vision statement as well as identify the transition services necessary to support the vision. IDEA 2004 defines transition services as a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that -

- A. Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- B. Is based on individual strengths, preferences and interest; and
- C. Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. (P.L. 108-446, Sec 603 (34))

## Transfer Students

Students who transfer to a Prince William County Public School from a public school system within the state of Virginia must meet all graduation requirements set forth by the Virginia Department of Education. Students who transfer to a

Prince William County Public School from a private or out-of-state school will work with their school counselor to make an individualized graduation plan that allows the student some flexibility in meeting graduation requirements as set forth by the Virginia Department of Education. Students who enroll during the school year after the first 20 hours of instruction will be required to meet the following verified unit of credit requirements for graduation:

Transfer student requirements for students who enters 9th grade for the first time prior to 2018-19.

#### Standard Diploma

##### Student enters the 9th grade for the first time prior to 2018-19

Student enters at the beginning of or during 9th grade:  
Student must obtain all six required verified units of credit

Student enters at the beginning of or during 10th grade or at the beginning of 11th grade:

Student must obtain four verified units of credit

- One in English
- One in Math
- One in History/Social Science
- One in Science

Student enters during 11th grade or at the beginning of 12th grade:

Student must obtain two verified units

- One in English
- One student selected\*

Student enters during 12th grade:

Student may apply for a waiver of verified units with the State Board of Education

#### Advanced Studies Diploma

Student enters at the beginning of or during 9th grade:  
Student must obtain all nine required verified units of credit

Student enters at the beginning of or during 10th grade or at the beginning of 11th grade:

Student must obtain six verified units of credit

- Two in English
- One in Math
- One in History/Social Science
- One in Science
- One student selected

Student enters during 11th grade or at the beginning of 12th grade:

- Student must obtain four verified units
- One in English
- Three students selected\*

Student enters during 12th grade:

Student may apply for a waiver of verified units with the State Board of Education

Transfer student requirements for students who enter 9th grade for the first time during 2018-19 and beyond.

#### Student enters the 9th grade for the first time during 2018-19 and beyond Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma

Student enters at the beginning of or during 9th grade or at the beginning of 10th grade:  
Student must obtain all five required verified units of credit

Student enters at the beginning of or during 10th grade or at the beginning of 11th grade:

Student must obtain all five required verified units of credit

Student enters during 11th grade or at the beginning of 12th grade:

Student must obtain two verified units

- One in English
- One student selected\*

\*One must be earned in mathematics if participation in mathematics testing is required by federal law

Student enters during 12th grade:

Student may apply for a waiver of verified units with the State Board of Education

Students transferring with weighted credits from other divisions will have those credits assessed and aligned with similar courses in PWCS. Students may also be granted additional flexibility in meeting some of the course requirements for graduation as outlined in the Virginia Standards of Accreditation. Any student or parent with questions about graduation requirements for transfer students should consult with their assigned school counselor. Students whose parents are active duty military may receive additional flexibility as outlined in the Interstate Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Information for transfer students who enter during 10th grade in 2019-20 and beyond is available in each school counseling office.