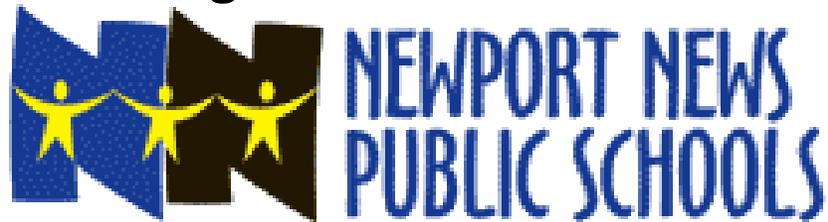


# Changes to SOL testing at the High School level

Testing Office

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*College, Career & Citizen-Ready!*

The U.S. Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education are transitioning from the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These changes impact student graduation requirements and Standards of Accreditation. Students enrolled in a high school course associated with an End-of-Course (EOC) SOL assessment are only required to take the assessment if the student needs it to satisfy the verified credit graduation requirement.

Graduation requirements are dependent on the type of degree the student is seeking and the students first time entering ninth-grade.

# How many verified credits does my student need to earn?

- The number of verified credits a student needs to earn depends on the year they first entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the type of diploma they are seeking. See the chart below.

Entered 9 <sup>th</sup> grade for the first time 2018-2019 <b>Standard or Advanced Diploma</b>	Entered 9 <sup>th</sup> grade for the first time before 2018 <b>Standard Diploma</b>	Entered 9 <sup>th</sup> grade for the first time before 2018 <b>Advanced Diploma</b>
5 total Verified Credits	6 total Verified Credits	9 total Verified Credits
1 Reading 1 Writing 1 Math 1 Science 1 History/Social Science	1 Reading 1 Writing 1 Math 1 Science 1 History/Social Science 1 Student Select	1 Reading 1 Writing 2 Math 2 Science 2 History/Social Science 1 Student Select
1 Locally Awarded Verified Credit allowed	Up to 3 Locally Awarded Verified Credits allowed	No Locally Awarded Verified Credits allowed

# What is the difference between a Standard Credit and a Verified Credit?

- Standard Credit: A student earns a Standard Credit by successfully completing/passing a high school course required for graduation
- Verified Credit: A Verified Credit is awarded once a student successfully completes/passes a EOC course associated with an SOL assessment and achieves a passing score on the corresponding SOL assessment.
  - The student can also earn a verified credit by taking a substitute assessment approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

# What is a Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LVC) ?

- The Virginia Board of Education allows local school boards to award a verified credit for a course where the student:
  - Passed the high school course
  - Scored within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice
  - Demonstrated achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level

# My student is taking a course that has a SOL assessment, will they take the SOL assessment?

- Students who need the verified credit for the subject the course is associated with and is enrolled in the course are expected to test.
- Students who need the student select verified credit in a subject that they are enrolled in are given the opportunity to test.
- Any student with a passing EOC Algebra I score in middle school is required to take one math SOL (Geometry or Algebra II) while in grades 9-12. This is required for federal accountability.
- Any student enrolled in Biology who already has satisfied their Science requirement and student select will need to take the EOC assessment for federal accountability.

My student earned the Standard Credit for the course and is no longer enrolled in the course. They still need a verified credit. Will they be able to take the EOC assessment?

- Students who have the standard credit but still need the verified credit are registered for testing.
- Students should touch base with their counselor about remediation opportunities prior to testing to help them prepare.
- Students who need the “Student Select” verified credit will meet with their counselor to determine which SOL assessments they want to prepare for and take.

# My student has their required verified credits, but still wants to take the EOC SOL assessment?

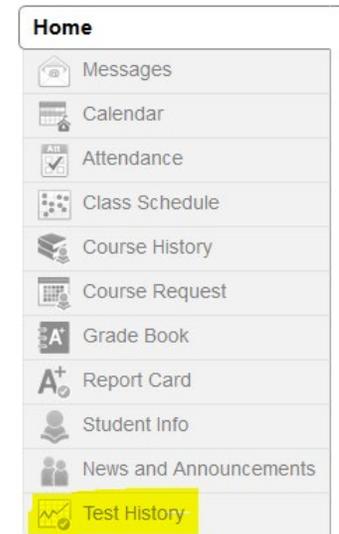
- Students are not permitted to take the EOC SOL assessment for a course they are enrolled in once they have acquired the verified credits they need and satisfied federal accountability.
- Parents may write a letter to the School Testing Coordinator asking permission for the student to test, but the student will NOT receive an exam exemption and the score will not count in the school's accreditation calculation. The sole purpose of testing would be to just see how the student would perform.

# How will my student know their SOL score?

- High Schools SOL score reports will be mailed home with report cards at the end of the school year
- Students and Parents can look up the *preliminary* SOL score(s) by logging in online to StudentVUE and/or ParentVUE and clicking on the “Test History” tab. Please remember these scores are preliminary.

Note: This feature is not available on the mobile app.

This feature is only available for high school students.



# Will students still have the opportunity to take Expedited Retakes?

- Students who score 375-399 on their SOL during their initial attempt will be given the opportunity to test again during this testing window after receiving remediation in that subject.
- Students with Disabilities or 504 plans seeking Credit Accommodations who score 350-374 on their SOL during their initial attempt will be given the opportunity to test again this testing window after receiving remediation in that subject.

# Virginia Department of Education Resources

- [Profile of a Virginia Graduate](#)
- [Approved Substitute Tests for Awarding Verified Credit](#)
- [Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Standards of Accreditation](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Earning a Virginia High School Diploma](#)