



January 30, 2019

Dear Lynchburg City Schools Students and Parents:

Lynchburg City Schools is committed to open communication with all parents and students. Please take the time to review the information presented in this letter to help clarify the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) requirements for High School Students. Please also be aware of the significant changes presented by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in regards to participation in end-of-course SOL assessments and how it will impact the need for the end-of-course examination.

The VDOE has updated the number of required SOL assessments and has stated that students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL assessment in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. (8VAC20-131-110. Standard and Verified Units of Credit.) Beginning this spring 2019, students are only permitted to participate in an end-of-course-SOL if it is necessary for graduation. If a student has already satisfied all of the verified credit requirements he/she will not be permitted to take the end-of-course SOL assessment. Students that have completed the required SOL verified credit requirements will take an end-of-course exam from their classroom teacher.

Please see an excerpt from the High School Program of Studies below:

VERIFIED CREDIT

A verified credit means the student has passed the state required Standards of Learning (SOL) test in addition to the course. Students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Verified credits may be earned in the following courses:

English	Math	Science	Social Studies
Reading	Algebra 1	Biology	World History 1
Writing	Algebra 2	Chemistry	World History 2
	Geometry	Earth Science	VA & US History
			World Geography

LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDIT OPTION

A verified credit is received when a student passes a high school credit course and the associated Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course state test. A locally awarded verified credit is an option available for some students who pass a class but do not pass the associated SOL end-of-course test and do not have enough verified credits to graduate. Locally awarded verified credits apply only to the

standard diploma for students who entered 9th grade for the first time prior to 2018-19. For students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2018-19 or after, one locally awarded verified credit in any subject can be awarded and can count toward any diploma.

To be eligible to earn a local verified credit, a student must:

- pass the high school course but not pass the associated state SOL end-of-course test,
- score at least 375 on any administration of the SOL test having taken the test at least twice, and
- demonstrate achievement in the academic content through a local appeal process.

The appeal process in Lynchburg includes the following:

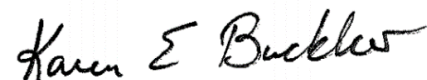
- A school-based panel will review grades of students eligible for a local verified credit. A local verified credit will be awarded if a student has achieved a final grade of "C" or better for the science or history course.
- Students eligible for a local verified credit who receive a "D" in the science or history course will receive a local verified credit if they receive a grade of "C" or higher on the exam.
- Students not meeting one of the above criteria may review course content and complete a cumulative assessment. Once they receive a passing score on the assessment, they are eligible for a locally verified credit.
- The school-based panel has final authority in determining whether to (a) award the verified credit, (b) deny the verified credit, or (c) suggest participation in a remedial program followed by retesting. Any appeals regarding locally awarded verified credits should be directed to the director of curriculum and instruction.

NOTE: Students with disabilities who qualify for credit accommodations may be awarded local verified credits in any subject area if they meet the criteria above.

More information is available online in the Lynchburg City Schools Programs of Studies. You can access this information at https://www.lcsedu.net/sites/default/files/pdfs/curriculum/hs_program_of_studies_2019-20.pdf

Please contact your child's school counselor for more information.

Thank you,



Karen E Bucklew
Coordinator of Assessment