

Frequently Asked Questions about Changes to SOL Requirements, Graduation Requirements, and Exam Exemptions

1. How many verified credits does my student need to earn?

Verified credit requirements are determined by the student’s grade level and diploma type and are summarized in the chart below.

9 th Graders (1 st time) Standard or Advanced Diploma	10 th - 12 th Graders Standard Diploma	10 th – 12 th Graders Advanced Diploma
<u>5 total:</u> 1 Reading 1 Writing 1 Math* 1 Science 1 History	<u>6 total:</u> 1 Reading 1 Writing 1 Math* 1 Science 1 History 1 Student Select (Math, Science or History)	<u>9 total:</u> 1 Reading 1 Writing 2 Math* 2 Science 2 History 1 Student Select (Math, Science or History)

*Students who pass Algebra I and/or Geometry SOL tests in middle school are required to take one math SOL test in grades 9-12 for Federal Accountability. Additionally, students who take and pass the Earth Science SOL test in grade 9 will be required to take the Biology SOL test in grade 10 for Federal Accountability.

2. How will I know what SOL tests my child is scheduled to take during the spring 2019 administration?

Testing letters will be distributed in April by each high school with student specific testing information.

3. If my child only needs to earn the one additional student select verified credit, will they only be scheduled for one SOL test?

No; students are initially scheduled for all potential opportunities to earn required verified credits, as identified by students. Once the student is no longer eligible for SOL testing, they will not sit for any additional tests.

4. How will students be notified if they no longer need to take an SOL test during the spring 2019 testing window?

Communication will be shared each evening with families and students using the Blackboard Mass Notification system. In the event that scores are unavailable on the same day of testing, students will sit for the designated SOL test the following day or they may be notified the following morning.

5. Do students get to select which SOL test(s) they will take?

Yes; Counselors and ACCs will meet with students who still need to earn their “student-select” verified credit during the second semester to determine which SOL test(s) the student will sit for during the spring administration.

6. My student does not need to complete any more SOL tests for verified credit purposes, but wants to take the VA/US History SOL test so that they can earn the exam exemption, is this allowable?

No; the new Standards of Accreditation specify that students can no longer sit for SOL tests after they have earned their necessary verified credits or after meeting the mathematics or science federal requirement.

7. Given the changes to SOL testing, will we continue with the modified testing schedule?

Yes, for the 2018-2019 school year only. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, all SOL testing will occur during regularly scheduled school days and will be conducted over several weeks as designated by the division testing calendar.

8. How does a student qualify for an expedited retake?

In most cases, students must pass the course and earn between a 375 and 399 on the SOL test during the spring administration. If a student only needs one additional verified credit and does so on the second test of the administration, the student may participate in the expedited retake attempt for the prior test, even when they have met the verified credit requirements.

9. How may students in grades 9 through 12 earn exam exemptions?

Students may earn exam exemptions when they are **required** to take the SOL test and have achieved a score of 400 or greater.

10. My student transferred to York County this year, how do I know what SOL tests they need to complete for graduation requirements?

Students and parents should meet with their school counselor to discuss verified credit requirements, as there are varying requirements based on the student's enrollment date and diploma type.

11. Can my student take an SOL test after they meet the verified credits needed for their diploma type?

Parents may opt in students for additional SOL tests through a written request. Students will NOT however be able to earn exam exemption when opting in to take additional SOL tests that are not required for graduation.

Virginia Department of Education Resources:

[2017 Standards of Accreditation: Graduation Requirements \(Class of 2022 and beyond\)](#)

[Profile of a Virginia Graduate](#)

[Standards of Accreditation](#)

[2017 Standards of Accreditation: Frequently Asked Questions](#)