

REQUIREMENTS OF GRADUATION

The King George County School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. To receive a high school diploma, a student shall meet the minimum requirements for one of the two diplomas outlined below for grades 9-12.

A. Requirements for a Standard Diploma

1. Beginning with freshmen entering 2011-2012, students shall earn the standard credits outlined in Section 2 below. Beginning with the freshmen entering 2018-2019, students shall earn standard units of credit described in Section 3 below.

2. Credits Required for Graduation (freshmen entering 2011-2012)

Discipline Area	Units of Credits	# of theses Required to be Verified
English	4	2
Mathematics*	3	1
Laboratory Science‡	3	1
History and Social Studies☆	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or CTE	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Students Selected Test		1
Total	22	6

3. Credits Required for Graduation (freshmen entering 2018-2019)

Discipline Area	Units of Credits	# of theses Required to be Verified
English	4	2
Mathematics*	3	1
Laboratory Science‡	3	1
History and Social Studies☆	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or CTE	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Total	22	5

*Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of Algebra and shall include at least two course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra and Geometry. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

✦ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections at least two different science disciplines; Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

☆ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one World History/Geography course. Courses which satisfy the World History/Geography course are (a) World History; (b) World Geography; (c) World History and Geography to 1000 A.D.; (d) World History and Geography 1000 A.D. to the Present; or (e) a semester course of World History to 1000 A.D. and a semester course of World Geography. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

Students completing the requirements for the standard diploma may be eligible to receive a Board of Education Seal and/or other honor deemed appropriate by the local school board.

B. Requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma

1. Beginning with freshmen entering 2011-2012, students shall earn the standard credits outlined in Section 2 below. Beginning with freshmen entering 2016-2017, students shall earn the standard credits outlined in Section 3 below. Beginning with freshmen entering 2024-2025, students shall earn the standard credits outlined in Section 4 below. *These requirements exceed the requirements of the Board of Education.

2. Credit Required for Graduation for freshmen entering 2011-2012 through 2015-2016

Discipline Area	Units of Credits	# of theses Required to be Verified
English	5*	2
Mathematics*	5*	2
Laboratory Science✦	4	2
History and Social Studies☆	4	2
Foreign Language*	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Students Selected Test		1
Total	28*	9

3. Credit Required for Graduation for freshmen entering 2016-2017 through 2017-2018

Discipline Area	Units of Credits	# of theses Required to be Verified
English	5*	2
Mathematics*	4	2
Laboratory Science✦	4	2
History and Social Studies☆	4	2
Foreign Language*	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4*	
Students Selected Test		1
Total	28*	9

4. Credit Required for Graduation for freshmen entering 2024-2025

Discipline Area	Units of Credits	# of theses Required to be Verified
English	4	2
Mathematics*	4	1
Laboratory Science✦	4	1
History and Social Studies☆	4	1
Foreign Language*	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Practical Arts	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives	5*	
Total	28*	5

* Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of Algebra and 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. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

✦ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different Science disciplines from among: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

☆ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two World History/Geography courses. Acceptable courses to satisfy the World History/Geography requirement include: (a) World History, and World Geography; (b) World History and Geography to 1000 A.D., and World History and

Geography from 1000- A.D. to Present. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

*Courses to satisfy this requirement include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

Students completing the requirements for the advanced studies diploma may be eligible to receive a Governor's Seal and/or other honor deemed appropriate by the local school board.

For both the Standard and Advanced diplomas beginning with freshmen entering 2018-2019, students must either complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course or earn a career and technical education credential approved by the Board of Education.

Students seeking an Advanced Studies Diploma beginning with freshmen entering 2018-2019 will be required to complete two sequential electives.

C. High School Credit Bearing Courses Taken at the Middle School Level

When students below the ninth grade successfully complete courses offered for credit in grades 9 through 12, credit is counted toward meeting the standard units required for graduation for students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1, 2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 provided the courses are equivalent in content and academic rigor as those courses offered at the secondary level. To earn a verified unit of credit for these courses, students below ninth grade level must meet the same requirements applicable to other students.

In any high school credit-bearing course taken in middle school, a parent may request that the grade be omitted from the student's transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. Such request shall be made in the format and by the deadline set forth in regulations developed by the superintendent.

D. Additional Requirements for Graduation

In addition to course credits, additional requirements for earning a diploma are outlined below.

1. **For students entering the ninth-grade class for the first time in 2013-2014 and beyond:** Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.

2. **For students entering the ninth-grade class for the first time in 2016-2017 and beyond, in addition to the above:** Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
3. **For students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and beyond, in addition to the above:**
 - a. **Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential** - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course, or (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
 - b. **Demonstration of the five Cs** - Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship in accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate approved by the board.

Please see the current copy of the King George High School Program of Studies for more information. The Program of Studies is updated annually to reflect any changes made locally and/or by the Virginia Department of Education.

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