Attachment A, Memo No. 202-13

August 2, 2013

**Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs**

**8 VAC 20-30-10. Responsibility.**

Local school officials are responsible for evaluating and awarding credit for educational achievement, other than that earned in the high school program.

**8 VAC 20-30-20. Minimum requirements for adult high school programs.**

Adult high school programs are not part of the 9 through 12 high school program and shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Age. Only those students not subject to the compulsory attendance requirements of § 22.1-254 of the *Code of Virginia* shall be enrolled in an adult high school program. ~~An adult student shall be at least 18 years of age. Under circumstances which local school authorities consider justifiable, students of school age may enroll in courses offered by the adult high school. Only in exceptional circumstances should school officials permit a school-aged individual enrolled in grades 9 through 12 to earn credits toward high school graduation in adult classes. All educational alternatives must have been considered prior to placing an enrolled student in an adult class. Such students would be able to earn a diploma, as provided in 8 VAC 20-131-50, but would not be eligible to earn an adult high school diploma.~~
2. Credit.
3. Satisfactory completion of 108 hours of classroom instruction in a subject shall constitute sufficient evidence for one unit of credit toward a high school diploma.
4. When, in the judgment of the principal or the superintendent, an adult not regularly enrolled in the grades 9 through 12 high school program is able to demonstrate by examination or other objective evidence, satisfactory completion of the work, he may receive credit in accordance with policies adopted by the local school board. It is the responsibility of the school issuing the credit to document the types of examinations employed or other objective evidence used, the testing or assessment procedures, and the extent of progress in each case.
5. Credits earned in adult high school programs shall be transferable as prescribed in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* within the sponsoring school division and shall be transferable to public secondary schools outside of the sponsoring school division.
6. Diplomas.
7. A diploma, as provided in 8 VAC 20-131-50, shall be awarded to an adult student who completes all requirements of the diploma regulated by the Board of Education, with the exception of health and physical education requirements, in effect at the time he will graduate.
8. An adult high school diploma shall be awarded to an adult student who completes the course credit requirements in effect for any Board of Education diploma, with the exception of health and physical education course requirements, at the time he first entered the ninth grade. The requirement for specific assessments may be waived if the assessments are no longer administered to students in Virginia public schools.
9. An adult high school diploma shall be awarded to an adult student who demonstrates through applied performance assessment full mastery of the National External Diploma Program ~~Generalized~~ Competencies ~~Correlated with CASAS Competencies, 1996,~~ as promulgated by the American Council on Education and validated and endorsed by the United States Department of Education.
10. A General Achievement Adult High School Diploma shall be awarded to a student who is not subject to the compulsory attendance requirements of § 22.1-254 of the *Code of Virginia* and who:
    1. Successfully completes the General Educational Development (GED) program that meets the requirements of the Board of Education’s *Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates* (8 VAC 20-360) and earns a GED certificate;
    2. Earns a Board of Education-approved career and technical education credential, such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia Workplace Readiness Skills Assessment; and
11. Successfully completes the following courses that incorporate or exceed the applicable Standards of Learning:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discipline Area** | **Standard Units of Credit Required** |
| English | 4 |
| Mathematics | 3 |
| Science | 2 |
| History and Social Sciences | 2 |
| Electives | 9 |
| TOTAL | 20 |

Courses completed to satisfy the requirements in mathematics and science shall include content in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board of Education (board) to satisfy any other board-recognized diploma.

Courses completed to satisfy the history/social science requirements shall include one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. History and one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. Government in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the board to satisfy any other board-recognized diploma.

Courses completed to satisfy the electives requirement shall include at least two sequential electives in an area of concentration or specialization, which may include career and technical education and training.

1. ~~A General Achievement Diploma, as provided in 8 VAC 20-680, shall be awarded to an adult student who completes all requirements of the diploma.~~

**8 VAC 20-30-30. Minimum qualifications of teachers.**

Teachers teaching in the adult high school program shall be licensed and endorsed in the subject areas they teach.

**8 VAC 20-30-40. Library facilities.**

The adult high school program shall have library media services, science laboratories, and computer technology accessible to instructional staff and adult learners.

**8 VAC 20-30-50. [Repealed]**

**8 VAC 20-30-60. Administration and supervision.**

The adult high school program shall be under the supervision of the high school principal, assistant principal, or a qualified staff member approved by the division superintendent.

**8 VAC 20-30-70. Guidance services.**

The adult high school program shall have appropriate guidance services available.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE** ([8VAC20-30](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+8VAC20-30))

National External Diploma Program Competencies as promulgated by the American Council on Education and validated and endorsed by the United States Department of Education

~~National External Diploma Program Generalized Competencies Correlated with CASAS Competencies, Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System EDP/CASAS, 1996.~~

**~~Regulations Governing the General Achievement Diploma~~**

**~~8 VAC 20-680-10. Eligibility requirements for the General Achievement Diploma.~~**

~~The General Achievement Diploma is intended to provide a diploma option for individuals who exit high school without a diploma. It should not be a first option for high school students.~~

~~Individuals who meet one of the following criteria shall be eligible to earn the General Achievement Diploma:~~

* 1. ~~Individuals who are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school; or~~
  2. ~~Individuals who are not otherwise subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in § 22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia.~~

**~~8 VAC 20-680-20. Course, credit, and assessment requirements.~~**

1. ~~Credit and assessment requirements for graduation with a General Achievement Diploma are as follows:~~

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **~~Discipline Area~~** | **~~Standard Units of Credit Required~~** |
| ~~English~~ | ~~4~~ |
| ~~Mathematics~~ | ~~3~~ |
| ~~Science~~ | ~~2~~ |
| ~~History and Social Sciences~~ | ~~2~~ |
| ~~Electives~~ | ~~9~~ |
| ~~TOTAL~~ | ~~20~~ |

~~Assessment required: Achieve a passing score on the GED examination~~

1. ~~Courses completed to satisfy the requirements in mathematics and science shall include content in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board of Education (board) to satisfy any other board-recognized diploma.~~
2. ~~Courses completed to satisfy the history/social science requirements shall include one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. History and one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. Government in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the board to satisfy any other board-recognized diploma.~~
3. ~~Courses completed to satisfy the electives requirement shall include at least two sequential electives in an area of concentration or specialization, which may include career and technical education and training.~~
4. ~~The required number of standard units of credit may be earned by enrolling in:~~
5. ~~A public school if the individual meets the age requirements;~~
6. ~~A community college or other institution of higher education;~~
7. ~~An adult high school program; or~~
8. ~~Correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.~~
9. ~~Diploma candidates shall participate in GED preparation.~~