



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

April 19, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The 2012 General Assembly amended the *Code of Virginia* (HB 1061 and SB 489) to strengthen postsecondary education and workplace readiness opportunities for all children and consolidate the number of approved diplomas. This legislation eliminated the Modified Standard Diploma beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2013-2014 (students with IEPs who are currently in high school will continue to have the Modified Standard Diploma as a diploma option). The Board of Education was also required to make provisions for students with disabilities to earn a standard diploma through credit accommodations.

On March 28, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the proposed credit accommodations available to students with disabilities who meet the required participation criteria. These credit accommodations were developed to create pathways for students with disabilities earning standard and verified credits towards receiving a Standard Diploma. The Virginia Department of Education is developing FAQs, webinars and other informational materials to assist school division personnel, parents, and students to better understand the new diploma requirements and credit accommodations.

If you have questions about the new Standard Diploma requirements and credit accommodations, please e-mail your questions to [spedinstruction@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:spedinstruction@doe.virginia.gov). Questions e-mailed to this address will not be answered individually, but rather incorporated into training materials including an informational webinar.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Hollins, Director of Special Education Program Improvement, at [Samantha.Hollins@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Samantha.Hollins@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804)786-2900.

PIW/JME/SMH/cp

Attachment:

- a. [Guidelines for Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) (PDF)