

LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS

Generally

The Alleghany Highlands School Board awards verified credits in accordance with Virginia law and Virginia Board of Education regulations as follows:

- To qualify for locally-awarded verified credits, a student must:
 - Pass the high school course;
 - Score within a 375-399 scale range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test after taking the test at least twice; and
 - Demonstrate achievement in the academic content through an appeal process administered at the local level (see *Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits* for details.)
- Students with credit accommodations are not subject to the limit on the number of locally-awarded verified credits.
- Local school boards must have policies governing procedures used to award locally-awarded verified credit, including the use of a review panel to consider evidence of the student's achievement.
- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2018-2019 academic year:**
 - No more than three locally-awarded verified credits may be awarded.
 - Locally-awarded verified credits cannot be applied toward an Advanced Studies diploma.
 - Students that are no longer in school who would now be eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit, provided that all criteria is met.
- **For student entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2018-2019 academic year and beyond:**
 - No more than one locally-awarded verified credit may be awarded.
 - Locally-awarded verified credits can be applied toward either a Standard or an Advanced Studies diploma

To be eligible for locally awarded verified credits as credit accommodations, students with disabilities must meet all criteria established by Virginia law or regulation and eligibility for such credit accommodations must be established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

Review Panels

The Alleghany Highlands School Board appoints review panels comprised of at least three educators to consider evidence of the student's achievement. Different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools.

The review panel reviews information which provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The panel has discretion in determining the information it considers. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assessments, divisionwide exams, course grades and additional academic assignments (e.g. papers, projects, essays or written questions) as the panel deems appropriate.

Based on the evidence it reviews, the review panel may:

- award the verified credit;
- deny the verified credit;
- suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting; or
- make additional academic assignments prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

The decision of the review panel is final.

Adopted: July 1, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Revised Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits (Virginia Department of Education May 11, 2018) (attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 130-18 (May 11, 2018)).