

A PEATC

Do You Know....

About the Profile of Virginia Graduate
and how it Affects Graduation
Requirements



Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

Profile of a Virginia Graduate:

The “Profile of a Virginia Graduate” describes what information and skills a student should have when graduating from high school in Virginia. This profile is for ALL students, including students who receive special education services. Parents need to be aware of the requirements that are now in place for all students so that they can begin talking with their child’s school, and IEP team, about how their child being prepared for employment after high school.

The “Profile” went into effect for freshman entering high school in the fall of 2018, or the graduation class of 2022.

Under the Profile a Virginia High School graduate will:

- learn and use academic and technical knowledge (content knowledge);
- show productive workplace skills and behaviors (workplace skills);
- build relationships with others as a responsible citizen (community engagement and civic responsibility); and
- match knowledge, skills and personal interests with career possibilities (career exploration).



The 5 C’s included in the Profile of a Virginia Graduate:

Critical Thinking (using all possible information to decide an answer)

Creative Thinking (new and “out of the box” thinking)

Collaboration (working with others)

Communication (sharing thoughts, ideas or information with others)

Citizenship (being respectful of others and your community)

Background:

In 2015, The Standards of Learning Innovation Committee presented a report to the Virginia General Assembly recommending that the Board of Education develop a “Profile of a Virginia Graduate” and change Virginia’s diploma requirements to line up with that profile. So, in 2016 the VA General Assembly directed the Board to Education to develop and implement a Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

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Career Exploration and Planning:

The career-planning part of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate gives ALL students an opportunity to learn more about employment options and career choices. One powerful piece of this profile is that it includes opportunities to build skills needed to be successfully employed after high school. Beginning in elementary school, schools must provide opportunities for students to know what types of jobs are available so that they can see what jobs they prefer and learn the job skills that will be needed for future employment. The profile requires schools to expand work-based and job skill programs. This could include internships (both paid and unpaid), externships and credentialing classes.



More information can be found at:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/profile-grad/index.shtml>

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/2017-grad-req.shtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40XZtg011Qg>

What does this Really Look Like in Schools:

- Elementary School = Exposure to all types of Careers
- Middle School = Career Investigation and Planning. Students should leave Middle School with an Academic and Career Plan
- High School = Opportunities for Work-Based and Service-Based Learning

Changes in Requirements for Diploma Credits Verified by Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests:

- Advanced Diploma = changed from requiring 9 verified credits to now requiring 5 verified credits
- Standard Diploma = changed from requiring 6 verified credits to now requiring 5 verified credits

Standard Credits Requirement Remains the Same:

- Standard Diploma = 22 required standard credits
- Advanced Studies Diploma = 26 required standard credits

A verified unit of credit is awarded when, in addition to successfully completing a course, the student passes a SOL test or utilizes a credit accommodation for that course in high school.

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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