

STANDARD DIPLOMA

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA

MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA

Subject	Standard units of credit	Verified units of credit
English English 9, 10, 11, 12	4	2
Mathematics Courses must be at or above the level of algebra and include at least two course selections from Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or higher.	3	1
Laboratory Science Courses must include selections from at least two different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.	3	1*
History/Social Sciences Courses must include U.S. & Virginia History, U.S. & Virginia Government, and World History from 1500	3	1*
Health and Physical Education (HPE I, HPE II)	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	
Electives Courses must include at least two sequential electives.	6	
Student Selected Test		1*
Total	22	6

*Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a science or history and social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement. (Standard Diploma only)

A standard unit of credit is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and successful completion of course requirements. A verified unit of credit is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of course requirements, and achievement of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test or on an additional test as approved by the Board of Education.

Subject	Standard units of credit	Verified units of credit
English English 9, 10, 11, 12	4	2
Mathematics Courses must be at or above the level of algebra and include at least three different course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher. (Advanced Studies Diploma must include Algebra II)	4	2
Laboratory Science Courses must include selections from at least three different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics or completion of the science courses required for the IB Diploma.	4	2
History/Social Sciences Courses must include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. & Virginia Government, World History from 1500, and World Geography.	4	2
Foreign Language Courses must include three years of one language or two years each of two languages.	3-4	
Health and Physical Education (HPE I, HPE II)	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	
Electives	1-2	
Student Selected Test		1
Total	24	9

Subject	Standard units of credit
English English 9, 10, 11, 12	4
Mathematics Courses must include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and statistics, or higher. Minimum required courses for first-time ninth graders in 2004-05 and beyond are Algebra I, Part I; Algebra I, Part II; and Personal Living and Finance.	3
Science Must include two courses from among Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Active Physics.	2
History & Social Sciences Courses must include U.S. & Virginia History and U.S. & Virginia Government.	2
Health and Physical Education (HPE I, HPE II)	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1
Electives Courses must include at least two sequential electives.	6
Total	20

MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA

The Modified Standard Diploma program is intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in this program are determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, including the student, where appropriate, at any point after the student's 8th grade year. Students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma must pass the 8th Grade SOL Tests in Math and English/Reading or achieve scores on these or on other tests as approved by the Board of Education.

SPECIAL DIPLOMA

Students with disabilities who complete the requirements of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and do not meet the requirements for other diplomas shall be awarded the Special Diploma.

Additional Diploma Information

STANDARD DIPLOMA

Students must earn a minimum of 22 standard units of credit and six verified units of credit in order to receive a Standard Diploma.

To receive a standard unit of credit for English 11, all students enrolled in an English 11 course in Prince William County Public Schools including students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, and students participating in Alternative Education programs must successfully complete the Eleventh Grade Research Writing Requirement.

The Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seal, the Career and Technical Education Seal, and the Excellence in Civics Education Seal are available to students who earn a Standard Diploma and fulfill specific requirements.

Students who complete the Standard Diploma with a GPA of 4.0 will receive a Board of Education Seal on the diploma.

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA

Students may elect to receive an Advanced Studies Diploma which requires a minimum of 24 standard units of credit and nine verified units of credit.

To receive a standard unit of credit for English 11, all students enrolled in an English 11 course in Prince William County Public Schools, including students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, and students participating in Alternative Education programs must successfully complete the Eleventh Grade Research Writing Requirement.

The Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seal, the Career and Technical Education Seal, and the Excellence in Civics Education Seal are available to students who earn an Advanced Studies Diploma and fulfill specific requirements.

Students who complete the requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma with a GPA of 3.0 or above and successfully complete at least one Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge or year-long college-level course for credit will receive the Governor's Seal on their diplomas.

Beginning with the ninth grade class of 2006-07, in order to receive the Governor's Seal on the diploma, students must complete the requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma with a GPA of 3.0 or above and successfully complete college level coursework that will earn the student at least nine transferable college credits in AP, IB, Cambridge, or dual enrollment courses. Students who complete the requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma with a GPA of 4.0 will receive a Board of Education Seal on the diploma.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who transfer into Prince William County from another state after the beginning of their 9th grade year are advised to consult with their school counselor for information about verified units of credit requirements.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE
CONTACT YOUR
SCHOOL COUNSELOR.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.PWCS.EDU**

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



P.O. Box 389 • Manassas, Virginia 20108 • 703.791.7200 • www.pwcs.edu

Milton C. Johns
Chairman At-Large

Denita S. Ramirez
Vice Chairman
Woodbridge District

Betty D. Covington
Dumfries District

Grant Lattin
Occoquan District

Julie C. Lucas
Neabsco District

Michael Otaigbe, Ph.D.
Coles District

Dr. Steven L. Walts
Superintendent of Schools

Don Richardson
Gainesville District

Gil Trenum
Brentsville District

The Prince William County Public School Division does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programs and activities against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, age, veteran status, or disability.

