

**Virginia Manufacturing Development  
Commission**

***Development of the  
Technical Diploma and the  
Advanced Technical  
Diploma – 2008 Update***

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# **The 2007 General Assembly Established Two Technical Diplomas for Virginia's Public School Children:**

- **In order to establish these diplomas, the Virginia Board of Education took action in early 2007 to begin the process of amending its accrediting regulations.**
- **In early 2008, the Virginia Board of Education released the draft regulations with the requirements for the technical diplomas. This proposal has just completed the review process by the Executive Branch and will now go through a formal public comment process.**
- **The draft regulations not only prescribe the requirements for the Standard Technical and Advanced Technical Diplomas but also include other changes, including the addition of academic and career plans for all students and a graduation and completion index to be used as a factor in accrediting schools.**

# Technical Diplomas:

- The proposed regulations establish requirements for both a Standard Technical and Advanced Technical diploma. The academic requirements would meet or exceed the requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas.
- To earn either of the technical diplomas, a student must earn four standard credits in career and technical education in a career concentration approved by the Virginia Board of Education.
- At this time, it is anticipated that the technical diplomas would be options for students beginning with the ninth grade class of 2009-2010, but this time frame is dependent upon completion of the regulatory process.

# Technical Diplomas (cont'd):

- For concentrations that require less than four courses students must complete additional courses that are related to the student's career concentration.
- If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the Virginia Board of Education, the student must take this assessment to earn either diploma.

# Technical Diplomas (cont'd):

The proposed requirements for the Standard Technical Diploma are as follows:

Subject	Credits Needed for Graduation
English	4
Mathematics	3
Laboratory Science	3
History/Social Sciences	3
Health & Physical Education	2
Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Economics or Personal Finance	1
Career and Technical Education	4
Electives	2
Total (same as Standard Diploma)	22

# Technical Diplomas (cont'd):

The proposed requirements for the Advanced Technical Diploma are as follows:

Subject	Credits Needed for Graduation
English	4
Mathematics	4
Laboratory Science	4
History/Social Sciences	4
Foreign Language	3
Health & Physical Education	2
Fine Arts or Economics	1
Career and Technical Education	4
<b>Total (same as Advanced Studies Diploma)</b>	<b>26</b>

# **The Academic and Career Plan:**

- **All middle schools must develop and maintain a personal Academic and Career Plan, as established by the Virginia Board of Education, for each seventh and eighth grade student.**
- **The plan shall include the student's educational goals and program of study for high school graduation and a post-secondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests.**

# **The Academic and Career Plan (cont'd):**

- **The plan must be developed and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and officials designated by the principal.**
- **The plan must be reviewed and updated, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades.**

# Proposed Graduation and Completion Index:

- The Virginia Board of Education also proposes to incorporate graduation rates into Virginia's accountability system for schools.
- Schools with a graduating class would be required to achieve a minimum of 80 percentage points on an index, in addition to meeting the required pass rates on the Standards of Learning, in order to be fully accredited.

# Next Steps – Public Comment:

- The proposed regulations containing these changes will be published in the Virginia Register on September 1, 2008. Following publication, a formal 60 day public comment period will begin.
- The Virginia Board of Education will hold five public hearings around the state, and all public hearings will take place on Thursday, October 30.

# Next Steps – Public Comment (cont'd):

- The public hearings will be held in Alexandria, Highland Springs (Central Virginia), Chesapeake, Waynesboro, and Wytheville.
- More information on these hearings and the public comment process will be available at:  
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Accountability/soa.html> - All comments should be directed to the following e-mail address: **SOACOMMENTS@doe.virginia.gov**.
- The Virginia Board of Education welcomes your comments on the technical diplomas and other revisions to its accrediting regulations.

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