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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 478**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 12, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-253.13:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective,*
5 *and 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to diploma seal for excellence in fine arts established;*
6 *industry-recognized workforce credential.*

7 Patron—Watts

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That §§ 22.1-253.13:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 22.1-253.13:4 of**
11 **the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**12 **§ 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective until July 1, 2026) Standard 1. Instructional programs supporting the**
13 **Standards of Learning and other educational objectives.**14 A. The General Assembly and the Board believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of the
15 Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school,
16 preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board find that the
17 quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits,
18 and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate
19 learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each
20 student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv)
21 the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General Assembly shall provide
22 for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, § 1 of the Constitution of Virginia.23 B. The Board shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which shall form
24 the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together are designed to
25 ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the
26 years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning for English, mathematics,
27 science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be construed to be regulations as
28 defined in § 2.2-4001.29 The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality
30 foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic
31 skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning,
32 including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related technology;
33 computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to manage personal
34 finances and to make sound financial decisions.35 The English Standards of Learning for reading in kindergarten through grade eight shall align with
36 evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.37 The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain
38 rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for
39 eventual employment and lifelong learning. The Board shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it
40 deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all
41 subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this
42 section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent
43 basis.44 To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards,
45 the Board shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty days prior
46 to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all
47 local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its
48 intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall
49 be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions
50 of the Standards of Learning.51 In addition, the Department shall make available and maintain a website, either separately or through an
52 existing website utilized by the Department, enabling public elementary, middle, and high school educators to
53 submit recommendations for improvements relating to the Standards of Learning, when under review by the
54 Board according to its established schedule, and related assessments required by the Standards of Quality
55 pursuant to this chapter. Such website shall facilitate the submission of recommendations by educators.

56 School boards shall implement the Standards of Learning or objectives specifically designed for their

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59 school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to
60 achieve the educational objectives established by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels. The
61 curriculum adopted by the local school division shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

62 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for history and social science the study of
63 contributions to society of diverse people. For the purposes of this subsection, "diverse" includes
64 consideration of disability, ethnicity, race, and gender.

65 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health instruction in emergency first aid,
66 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, including hands-on practice
67 of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such instruction shall be based on the
68 current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
69 and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart
70 Association or the American Red Cross. No teacher who is in compliance with subdivision D 3 of
71 § 22.1-298.1 shall be required to be certified as a trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to provide
72 instruction for non-certification.

73 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for physical and health education for grade nine or
74 10 research-based hazing prevention instruction, in accordance with the Standards of Learning and
75 curriculum guidelines for research-based hazing prevention instruction developed by the Board pursuant to
76 subsection B of § 22.1-207.

77 With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise the
78 competencies for career and technical education programs to require the full integration of English,
79 mathematics, science, and history and social science Standards of Learning. Career and technical education
80 programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

81 The Board shall establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career investigation
82 in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Each school board shall (i) require each middle school
83 student to take at least one course in career investigation or (ii) select an alternate means of delivering the
84 career investigation course to each middle school student, provided that such alternative is equivalent in
85 content and rigor and provides the foundation for such students to develop their academic and career plans.
86 Any school board may require (a) such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems
87 appropriate, subject to Board approval as required in subsection A of § 22.1-253.13:4, and (b) such courses in
88 career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate. The Board shall develop and
89 disseminate to each school board career investigation resource materials that are designed to ensure that
90 students have the ability to further explore interest in career and technical education opportunities in middle
91 and high school. In developing such resource materials, the Board shall consult with representatives of career
92 and technical education, industry, skilled trade associations, chambers of commerce or similar organizations,
93 and contractor organizations.

94 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 that
95 is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board. The program of
96 instruction shall emphasize reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency
97 in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including
98 computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including
99 knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign
100 languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues, and geography
101 necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts,
102 which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed
103 to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and
104 development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and
105 lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

106 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or
107 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those who fail to achieve
108 a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-
109 course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that
110 are research-based.

111 Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning
112 assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation
113 program.

114 Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the
115 relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of
116 a verified unit of credit shall be required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of
117 remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention,
118 intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance
119 with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01.

120 Remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who

121 are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-
 122 of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer
 123 school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by
 124 regulations promulgated by the Board, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs
 125 or other forms of remediation shall be chosen by the division superintendent to be appropriate to the
 126 academic needs of the student. Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to
 127 participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the school division.

128 The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of
 129 prevention, intervention or remediation that has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the division
 130 superintendent or his designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special
 131 program that has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the
 132 division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation
 133 program shall be borne by the student's parent.

134 The Board shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs that shall include, but
 135 not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full
 136 funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of
 137 students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be
 138 provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act,
 139 provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to
 140 § 22.1-199.2.

141 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

142 1. Programs in grades K through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance
 143 success.

144 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students
 145 who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school. Such programs shall
 146 include components that are research-based.

147 3. Career and technical education programs incorporated into the K through 12 curricula that include:

148 a. Knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to,
 149 apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession,
 150 and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;

151 b. Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;

152 c. Competency-based career and technical education programs that integrate academic outcomes, career
 153 guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students. Programs shall be based upon labor market needs
 154 and student interest. Career guidance shall include counseling about available employment opportunities and
 155 placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to
 156 ensure compliance with the provisions of this subdivision. Such plan shall be developed with the input of area
 157 business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and shall be submitted to
 158 the Superintendent in accordance with the timelines established by federal law;

159 d. Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of
 160 the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its
 161 website pursuant to § 23.1-204.1 and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized
 162 career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce
 163 center; and

164 e. As part of each student's academic and career plan, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the
 165 Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and
 166 (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of
 167 program graduates. The Department shall annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school
 168 board.

169 4. Educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial
 170 literacy pursuant to § 22.1-200.03.

171 5. Early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate
 172 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

173 6. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated
 174 instructional programs.

175 7. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in
 176 these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the
 177 regulations of the Board.

178 8. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such
 179 programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative
 180 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

181 9. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority that
 182 shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

183 10. An agreement for postsecondary credit and degree attainment with any comprehensive community
184 college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate degree, a one-year
185 Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the Passport Program from a comprehensive community college
186 concurrent with a high school diploma, consistent with the requirements for the College and Career Ready
187 Virginia Program set forth in Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13. Such agreement shall specify
188 the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam
189 scores of three or higher.

190 11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced
191 placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships,
192 apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based
193 learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program and Academic Year Governor's School
194 Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of
195 financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International
196 Baccalaureate examinations. This plan shall include notification to students and parents of the College and
197 Career Ready Virginia Program established pursuant to Article 5.1. (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13 and
198 its agreement with a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth pursuant to subdivision 10 to
199 enable students to complete an associate degree, a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the
200 Passport Program concurrent with a high school diploma.

201 12. Identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in
202 appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such
203 students receive instruction in English and in a second language.

204 13. Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with mathematics problems and provision
205 of instructional strategies and mathematics practices that benefit the development of mathematics skills for all
206 students.

207 Local school divisions shall provide algebra readiness intervention services to students in grades six
208 through nine who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test, as demonstrated by their individual
209 performance on any diagnostic test that has been approved by the Department. Local school divisions shall
210 report the results of the diagnostic tests to the Department on an annual basis, at a time to be determined by
211 the Superintendent. Each student who receives algebra readiness intervention services will be assessed again
212 at the end of that school year. Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation; summer
213 school remediation; at-risk; or algebra readiness intervention services may be used to meet the requirements
214 of this subdivision.

215 14. Incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the
216 elementary school level.

217 15. A program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting
218 of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school year and
219 available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on average
220 during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of (i) physical education classes,
221 (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities deemed appropriate by
222 the local school board. Each local school board shall implement such program during the regular school year.
223 Any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight shall include at least one hour of
224 personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is developed and delivered in
225 partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational safety awareness training and
226 social media education. Each local school board shall offer to all students in grade nine or 10 a physical
227 education class that includes research-based hazing prevention instruction pursuant to subsection C of
228 § 22.1-207, unless such hazing prevention instruction is provided as part of a separate health education class
229 offered to students in grade nine or 10. Each local school board may accept participation in the Junior
230 Reserve Officers' Training Corps as fulfillment of any physical education requirements applicable to students
231 in grades nine through 12.

232 16. A program of student services for kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students
233 in their educational, social, and career development.

234 17. The collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the
235 instructional program.

236 18. A program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all information
237 and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test.

238 E. From such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for such purpose, there shall be
239 established within the Department a unit to (i) conduct evaluative studies; (ii) provide the resources and
240 technical assistance to increase the capacity for school divisions to deliver quality instruction; and (iii) assist
241 school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance
242 and improve family and community involvement in the public schools. Such unit shall identify and analyze
243 effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate the success
244 of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student outcomes prompted by

245 family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions information regarding effective
 246 instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and community involvement, and potential
 247 funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources supporting professional development for
 248 administrators and teachers. In providing such information, resources, and other services to school divisions,
 249 the unit shall give priority to those divisions demonstrating a less than 70 percent passing rate on the
 250 Standards of Learning assessments.

251 F. The Board shall, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, Career and Technical
 252 Education directors, and industry partners, develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list
 253 of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain credits required
 254 for graduation pursuant to 8VAC20-131-51 of the Virginia Administrative Code, including
 255 industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for elective credits and
 256 industry-recognized workforce credentials completed outside of regular school hours. The Board shall
 257 include on such list its diploma seal of biliteracy established pursuant to subdivision E 4 of § 22.1-253.13:4
 258 and its diploma seal for excellence in fine arts established pursuant to subdivision E 5 of § 22.1-253.13:4 and
 259 shall consider each such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying
 260 graduation requirements. The Board, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, shall
 261 ensure that such list reflects the current credit requirements for graduation and the current credentials
 262 accepted as substitutes. The Board shall post such list in a publicly accessible location on its website. Each
 263 school board shall accept as a substitute for a required credit any credential listed as an accepted substitute for
 264 such required credit.

265 G. Each local school board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,
 266 certification, or license attainment, hereinafter referred to as College and Career Access Pathways
 267 Partnerships (Partnerships), with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher
 268 education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 that offer a career and technical
 269 education curriculum. Such Partnerships shall (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the
 270 career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential,
 271 certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials,
 272 certifications, or licenses available for such courses; (iii) specify the industry-recognized credentials that are
 273 accepted as substitutes for certain credits required for high school graduation, consistent with the list
 274 developed and maintained by the Board pursuant to subsection F; and (iv) specify available options for
 275 students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community
 276 colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school
 277 credit for successful completion of any such program.

278 H. Each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with
 279 science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten
 280 through grade eight and is consistent with the school board's literacy plan as required by subsection B of
 281 § 22.1-253.13:6. Pursuant to such program:

282 1. Each local school board shall provide reading intervention services to students in kindergarten through
 283 grade eight who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards
 284 of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided by the Department. Such reading intervention
 285 services shall consist of evidence-based literacy instruction, align with science-based reading research, and be
 286 documented for each student in a written student reading plan, consistent with the requirements in
 287 subdivision 2 and the list developed by the Department pursuant to subdivision I 2.

288 2. A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading intervention
 289 services pursuant to subdivision 1, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor student progress on
 290 a student reading plan. The parent of each student who receives reading intervention services pursuant to
 291 subdivision 1 shall receive notice of and have the opportunity to participate in the development of the student
 292 reading plan. Each student reading plan (i) shall follow the Department template created pursuant to
 293 subdivision I 3; (ii) shall document such reading intervention services; (iii) shall include, at a minimum, (a)
 294 the student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined or identified by diagnostic
 295 assessment data or the literacy screener provided by the Department; (b) the goals and benchmarks for
 296 student growth in reading; (c) a description of the specific measures that will be used to evaluate and monitor
 297 the student's reading progress; (d) the specific evidence-based literacy instruction that the student will
 298 receive; (e) the strategies, resources, and materials that will be provided to the student's parent to support the
 299 student to make reading progress; and (f) any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate
 300 to accelerate the student's reading skill development; and (iv) may include the following services for the
 301 student: instruction from a reading specialist, trained aide, computer-based reading tutorial program, or
 302 classroom teacher with support from an aide, extended instructional time in the school day or school year, or,
 303 for students in grades six through eight, a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards
 304 of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in the student's
 305 reading plan. In accordance with § 22.1-215.2, the parent of each student shall receive notice before services
 306 begin and a copy of the student reading plan.

307 3. Each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be assessed utilizing either the
308 literacy screener provided by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of Learning assessment
309 again at the end of that school year.

310 Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation, summer school remediation, the at-risk
311 add-on, or early intervention reading may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

312 I. In order to assist local school boards to implement the provisions of subsection H:

313 1. The Board shall provide guidance on the content of student reading plans;

314 2. The Department shall develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade
315 five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in
316 kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-
317 based reading research. The list shall be approved by the Board;

318 3. The Department shall develop a template for student reading plans that aligns with the requirements of
319 subsection H;

320 4. The Department shall develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of
321 division-level and school-level literacy data, at a time to be determined by the Superintendent, to include
322 results on the literacy screeners provided by the Department and the reading Standards of Learning
323 assessments; and

324 5. The Department shall provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can be
325 accessed by parents and local school boards to support student literacy development at home.

326 J. As used in this subsection:

327 "Digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media, including
328 the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior.

329 "Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and use media and information. "Media
330 literacy" includes the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.

331 The Board shall consider, during each regularly scheduled revision to the Standards of Learning and any
332 associated curriculum framework, including the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning,
333 incorporating media literacy and digital citizenship standards at each grade level.

334 **§ 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective July 1, 2026) Standard 1. Instructional programs supporting the
335 Standards of Learning and other educational objectives.**

336 A. The General Assembly and the Board believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of the
337 Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school,
338 preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board find that the
339 quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits,
340 and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate
341 learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each
342 student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv)
343 the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General Assembly shall provide
344 for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, § 1 of the Constitution of Virginia.

345 B. The Board shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which shall form
346 the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together are designed to
347 ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the
348 years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning for English, mathematics,
349 science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be construed to be regulations as
350 defined in § 2.2-4001.

351 The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality
352 foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic
353 skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning,
354 including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related technology;
355 computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to manage personal
356 finances and to make sound financial decisions.

357 The English Standards of Learning for reading in kindergarten through grade eight shall align with
358 evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.

359 The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain
360 rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for
361 eventual employment and lifelong learning. The Board shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it
362 deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all
363 subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this
364 section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent
365 basis.

366 To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards,
367 the Board shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty days prior
368 to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all

369 local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its
 370 intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall
 371 be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions
 372 of the Standards of Learning.

373 In addition, the Department shall make available and maintain a website, either separately or through an
 374 existing website utilized by the Department, enabling public elementary, middle, and high school educators to
 375 submit recommendations for improvements relating to the Standards of Learning, when under review by the
 376 Board according to its established schedule, and related assessments required by the Standards of Quality
 377 pursuant to this chapter. Such website shall facilitate the submission of recommendations by educators.

378 School boards shall implement the Standards of Learning or objectives specifically designed for their
 379 school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to
 380 achieve the educational objectives established by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels. The
 381 curriculum adopted by the local school division shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

382 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for history and social science the study of
 383 contributions to society of diverse people. For the purposes of this subsection, "diverse" includes
 384 consideration of disability, ethnicity, race, and gender.

385 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health instruction in emergency first aid,
 386 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, including hands-on practice
 387 of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such instruction shall be based on the
 388 current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 389 and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart
 390 Association or the American Red Cross. No teacher who is in compliance with subdivision D 3 of
 391 § 22.1-298.1 shall be required to be certified as a trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to provide
 392 instruction for non-certification.

393 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for physical and health education for grade nine or
 394 10 research-based hazing prevention instruction, in accordance with the Standards of Learning and
 395 curriculum guidelines for research-based hazing prevention instruction developed by the Board pursuant to
 396 subsection B of § 22.1-207.

397 With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise the
 398 competencies for career and technical education programs to require the full integration of English,
 399 mathematics, science, and history and social science Standards of Learning. Career and technical education
 400 programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

401 The Board shall establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career investigation
 402 in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Each school board shall (i) require each middle school
 403 student to take at least one course in career investigation or (ii) select an alternate means of delivering the
 404 career investigation course to each middle school student, provided that such alternative is equivalent in
 405 content and rigor and provides the foundation for such students to develop their academic and career plans.
 406 Any school board may require (a) such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems
 407 appropriate, subject to Board approval as required in subsection A of § 22.1-253.13:4, and (b) such courses in
 408 career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate. The Board shall develop and
 409 disseminate to each school board career investigation resource materials that are designed to ensure that
 410 students have the ability to further explore interest in career and technical education opportunities in middle
 411 and high school. In developing such resource materials, the Board shall consult with representatives of career
 412 and technical education, industry, skilled trade associations, chambers of commerce or similar organizations,
 413 and contractor organizations.

414 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 that
 415 is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board. The program of
 416 instruction shall emphasize reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency
 417 in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including
 418 computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including
 419 knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign
 420 languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues, and geography
 421 necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts,
 422 which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed
 423 to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and
 424 development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and
 425 lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

426 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or
 427 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those who fail to achieve
 428 a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-
 429 course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that
 430 are research-based.

431 Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning
432 assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation
433 program.

434 Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the
435 relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of
436 a verified unit of credit shall be required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of
437 remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention,
438 intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance
439 with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01.

440 Remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who
441 are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-
442 of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer
443 school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by
444 regulations promulgated by the Board, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs
445 or other forms of remediation shall be chosen by the division superintendent to be appropriate to the
446 academic needs of the student. Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to
447 participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the school division.

448 The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of
449 prevention, intervention or remediation that has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the division
450 superintendent or his designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special
451 program that has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the
452 division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation
453 program shall be borne by the student's parent.

454 The Board shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs that shall include, but
455 not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full
456 funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of
457 students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be
458 provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act,
459 provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to
460 § 22.1-199.2.

461 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

462 1. Programs in grades K through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance
463 success.

464 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students
465 who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school. Such programs shall
466 include components that are research-based.

467 3. Career and technical education programs incorporated into the K through 12 curricula that include:

468 a. Knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to,
469 apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession,
470 and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;

471 b. Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;

472 c. Competency-based career and technical education programs that integrate academic outcomes, career
473 guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students. Programs shall be based upon labor market needs
474 and student interest. Career guidance shall include counseling about available employment opportunities and
475 placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to
476 ensure compliance with the provisions of this subdivision. Such plan shall be developed with the input of area
477 business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and shall be submitted to
478 the Superintendent in accordance with the timelines established by federal law;

479 d. Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of
480 the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its
481 website pursuant to § 23.1-204.1 and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized
482 career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce
483 center; and

484 e. As part of each student's academic and career plan, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the
485 Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and
486 (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of
487 program graduates. The Department shall annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school
488 board.

489 4. Educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial
490 literacy pursuant to § 22.1-200.03.

491 5. Early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate
492 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

493 6. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated
 494 instructional programs.

495 7. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in
 496 these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the
 497 regulations of the Board.

498 8. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such
 499 programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative
 500 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

501 9. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority that
 502 shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

503 10. An agreement for postsecondary credit and degree attainment with any comprehensive community
 504 college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate degree, a one-year
 505 Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the Passport Program from a comprehensive community college
 506 concurrent with a high school diploma, consistent with the requirements for the College and Career Ready
 507 Virginia Program set forth in Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13. Such agreement shall specify
 508 the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam
 509 scores of three or higher.

510 11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced
 511 placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships,
 512 apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based
 513 learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program and Academic Year Governor's School
 514 Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of
 515 financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International
 516 Baccalaureate examinations. This plan shall include notification to students and parents of the College and
 517 Career Ready Virginia Program established pursuant to Article 5.1. (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13 and
 518 its agreement with a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth pursuant to subdivision 10 to
 519 enable students to complete an associate degree, a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the
 520 Passport Program concurrent with a high school diploma.

521 12. Identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in
 522 appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such
 523 students receive instruction in English and in a second language.

524 13. Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with mathematics problems and provision
 525 of instructional strategies and mathematics practices that benefit the development of mathematics skills for all
 526 students.

527 Local school divisions shall provide algebra readiness intervention services to students in grades six
 528 through nine who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test, as demonstrated by their individual
 529 performance on any diagnostic test that has been approved by the Department. Local school divisions shall
 530 report the results of the diagnostic tests to the Department on an annual basis, at a time to be determined by
 531 the Superintendent. Each student who receives algebra readiness intervention services will be assessed again
 532 at the end of that school year. Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation; summer
 533 school remediation; at-risk; or algebra readiness intervention services may be used to meet the requirements
 534 of this subdivision.

535 14. Incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the
 536 elementary school level.

537 15. A program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting
 538 of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school year and
 539 available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on average
 540 during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of (i) physical education classes,
 541 (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities deemed appropriate by
 542 the local school board. Each local school board shall implement such program during the regular school year.
 543 Any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight shall include at least one hour of
 544 personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is developed and delivered in
 545 partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational safety awareness training and
 546 social media education. Each local school board shall offer to all students in grade nine or 10 a physical
 547 education class that includes research-based hazing prevention instruction pursuant to subsection C of
 548 § 22.1-207, unless such hazing prevention instruction is provided as part of a separate health education class
 549 offered to students in grade nine or 10. Each local school board may accept participation in the Junior
 550 Reserve Officers' Training Corps as fulfillment of any physical education requirements applicable to students
 551 in grades nine through 12.

552 16. A program of student services for kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students
 553 in their educational, social, and career development.

554 17. The collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the

555 instructional program.

556 18. A program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all information
557 and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test.

558 E. From such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for such purpose, there shall be
559 established within the Department a unit to (i) conduct evaluative studies; (ii) provide the resources and
560 technical assistance to increase the capacity for school divisions to deliver quality instruction; and (iii) assist
561 school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance
562 and improve family and community involvement in the public schools. Such unit shall identify and analyze
563 effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate the success
564 of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student outcomes prompted by
565 family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions information regarding effective
566 instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and community involvement, and potential
567 funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources supporting professional development for
568 administrators and teachers. In providing such information, resources, and other services to school divisions,
569 the unit shall give priority to those divisions demonstrating a less than 70 percent passing rate on the
570 Standards of Learning assessments.

571 F. The Board shall, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, Career and Technical
572 Education directors, and industry partners, develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list
573 of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain credits required
574 for graduation pursuant to 8VAC20-131-51 of the Virginia Administrative Code, including
575 industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for elective credits and
576 industry-recognized workforce credentials completed outside of regular school hours. The Board shall
577 include on such list its diploma seal of biliteracy established pursuant to subdivision E 4 of § 22.1-253.13:4
578 and its *diploma seal for excellence in fine arts established pursuant to subdivision E 5 of § 22.1-253.13:4* and
579 shall consider *each* such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying
580 graduation requirements. The Board, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, shall
581 ensure that such list reflects the current credit requirements for graduation and the current credentials
582 accepted as substitutes. The Board shall post such list in a publicly accessible location on its website. Each
583 school board shall accept as a substitute for a required credit any credential listed as an accepted substitute for
584 such required credit.

585 G. Each local school board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,
586 certification, or license attainment, hereinafter referred to as College and Career Access Pathways
587 Partnerships (Partnerships), with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher
588 education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 that offer a career and technical
589 education curriculum. Such Partnerships shall (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the
590 career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential,
591 certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials,
592 certifications, or licenses available for such courses; (iii) specify the industry-recognized credentials that are
593 accepted as substitutes for certain credits required for high school graduation, consistent with the list
594 developed and maintained by the Board pursuant to subsection F; and (iv) specify available options for
595 students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community
596 colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school
597 credit for successful completion of any such program.

598 H. Each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with
599 science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten
600 through grade eight and is consistent with the school board's literacy plan as required by subsection B of
601 § 22.1-253.13:6. Pursuant to such program:

602 1. Each local school board shall provide reading intervention services to students in kindergarten through
603 grade eight who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards
604 of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided by the Department. Such reading intervention
605 services shall consist of evidence-based literacy instruction, align with science-based reading research, and be
606 documented for each student in a written student reading plan, consistent with the requirements in
607 subdivision 2 and the list developed by the Department pursuant to subdivision I 2.

608 2. A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading intervention
609 services pursuant to subdivision 1, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor student progress on
610 a student reading plan. The parent of each student who receives reading intervention services pursuant to
611 subdivision 1 shall receive notice of and have the opportunity to participate in the development of the student
612 reading plan. Each student reading plan (i) shall follow the Department template created pursuant to
613 subdivision I 3; (ii) shall document such reading intervention services; (iii) shall include, at a minimum, (a)
614 the student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined or identified by diagnostic
615 assessment data or the literacy screener provided by the Department; (b) the goals and benchmarks for
616 student growth in reading; (c) a description of the specific measures that will be used to evaluate and monitor

the student's reading progress; (d) the specific evidence-based literacy instruction that the student will receive; (e) the strategies, resources, and materials that will be provided to the student's parent to support the student to make reading progress; and (f) any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development; and (iv) may include the following services for the student: instruction from a reading specialist, trained aide, computer-based reading tutorial program, or classroom teacher with support from an aide, extended instructional time in the school day or school year, or, for students in grades six through eight, a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in the student's reading plan. In accordance with § 22.1-215.2, the parent of each student shall receive notice before services begin and a copy of the student reading plan.

3. Each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be assessed utilizing either the literacy screener provided by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of Learning assessment again at the end of that school year.

Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation, summer school remediation, the at-risk add-on, or early intervention reading may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

I. In order to assist local school boards to implement the provisions of subsection H:

1. The Board shall provide guidance on the content of student reading plans;

2. The Department shall develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research. The list shall be approved by the Board;

3. The Department shall develop a template for student reading plans that aligns with the requirements of subsection H;

4. The Department shall develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of division-level and school-level literacy data, at a time to be determined by the Superintendent, to include results on the literacy screeners provided by the Department and the reading Standards of Learning assessments; and

5. The Department shall provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can be accessed by parents and local school boards to support student literacy development at home.

J. As used in this subsection:

"Digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior.

"Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and use media and information. "Media literacy" includes the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.

The Board shall consider, during each regularly scheduled revision to the Standards of Learning and any associated curriculum framework, including the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning, incorporating media literacy and digital citizenship standards at each grade level.

K. Each local school board shall adopt and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social science for grades kindergarten through 12. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision I 2 and subsection B of § 22.1-253.13:6, such textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials shall be selected from the list approved by the Board pursuant to § 22.1-238 or through a local adoption process that incorporates requirements for textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

L. To support local adoption and implementation of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials, the Department shall:

1. Review and update its "Virginia's Textbook Review Process" document to identify textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials for Board approval pursuant to § 22.1-238. Such review process shall include guidelines and timelines for the submission of, review of, comment on, and evaluation of textbooks and instructional materials, the development and update at least every seven years of evaluation rubrics to determine the extent to which submitted textbooks and instructional materials meet the definition of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials, the selection and training of Virginia review teams that represent educators from various geographical regions of the Commonwealth and the diversity of the Commonwealth's schools, opportunity for public comment, and the publication of ratings and reports based on the reviews;

2. Implement the review process developed pursuant to subdivision 1 to develop a list of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials for English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social science for grades kindergarten through 12;

3. Develop, adopt, and publish a list of approved vendors of professional learning resources that support teachers to implement the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials approved by the Board pursuant to § 22.1-238;

4. For any school that requires improvement, based on federal indicators or a failure to meet Board

679 standards pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:3, (i) complete a review of the curricula in use at such school, (ii) from
680 such funds as may be appropriated, develop a grant program to support the school to adopt textbooks and
681 other high-quality instructional materials from the list approved by the Board pursuant to § 22.1-238 and
682 contract with vendors of professional learning resources from the list approved in accordance with
683 subdivision 3, and (iii) monitor implementation of the adopted textbooks and high-quality instructional
684 materials and professional learning resources; and

685 5. Publish annually a list of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials and professional
686 learning resources adopted and procured by each local school board.

687 § 22.1-253.13:4. Standard 4. Student achievement and graduation requirements.

688 A. Each local school board shall award diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who
689 transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the
690 Board and meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the local school board and approved by the
691 Board. Provisions shall be made to facilitate the transfer and appropriate grade placement of students from
692 other public secondary schools, from nonpublic schools, or from home instruction as outlined in the standards
693 for accreditation. The standards for accreditation shall include provisions relating to the completion of
694 graduation requirements through Virtual Virginia. Further, reasonable accommodation to meet the
695 requirements for diplomas shall be provided for otherwise qualified students with disabilities as needed.

696 In addition, each local school board may devise, vis-a-vis the award of diplomas to secondary school
697 students, a mechanism for calculating class rankings that takes into consideration whether the student has
698 taken a required class more than one time and has had any prior earned grade for such required class
699 expunged.

700 Each local school board shall notify the parents of rising eleventh and twelfth grade students of (i) the
701 requirements for graduation pursuant to the standards for accreditation and (ii) the requirements that have yet
702 to be completed by the individual student.

703 B. Students identified as disabled who:

704 1. Complete alternative requirements, in the form of credit accommodations specified in their
705 individualized education programs, to earn required standard and verified credits shall be awarded standard
706 diplomas by local school boards. Such credit accommodations may include (i) approval of alternative courses
707 to meet standard credit requirements, (ii) modifications to the requirements for local school divisions to
708 award locally awarded verified credits, (iii) approval of additional tests to earn verified credits, (iv) adjusted
709 cut scores required to earn verified credits, (v) allowance of work-based learning experiences, and (vi) special
710 permission credit accommodations for locally awarded verified credits; and

711 2. Complete the requirements of their individualized education programs and meet certain requirements
712 prescribed by the Board pursuant to regulations but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma
713 shall be awarded Applied Studies diplomas by local school boards. The Board shall develop and implement
714 statewide requirements for earning an Applied Studies diploma for implementation at the beginning of the
715 2022-2023 school year.

716 The Department shall develop guidance, in multiple languages, for students and parents (i) informing
717 them of the alternative path to earn a standard diploma through credit accommodations, including special
718 permission credit accommodations for locally awarded verified credits; (ii) conveying (a) the limitations of
719 the applied studies diploma, (b) key curriculum and testing decisions that reduce the likelihood that a student
720 will be able to obtain a standard diploma, and (c) a statement that the pursuit of an applied studies diploma
721 may preclude a student's ability to pursue a standard diploma; and (iii) supporting them to discuss these
722 diploma options at the student's individualized education program meetings.

723 Each local school board shall develop a process for awarding locally verified credits to students with
724 disabilities, require individualized education program teams to consider credit accommodations, including
725 locally awarded verified credits, for students with disabilities to enable them to earn a standard diploma, and
726 provide guidance from the Department to parents of students with disabilities regarding the availability of
727 credit accommodations to earn a standard diploma and the limitations of the Applied Studies diploma at a
728 student's annual individualized education program meeting corresponding to grades three through 12 when
729 curriculum or statewide assessment decisions are being made that impact the type of diploma for which the
730 student can qualify.

731 Each local school board shall notify the parent of such students with disabilities who have an
732 individualized education program and who fail to meet the graduation requirements of the student's right to a
733 free and appropriate education to age 21, inclusive, pursuant to Article 2 (§ 22.1-213 et seq.) of Chapter 13.

734 C. Students who have completed a prescribed course of study as defined by the local school board shall be
735 awarded certificates of program completion by local school boards if they are not eligible to receive a Board-
736 approved diploma.

737 Each local school board shall provide notification of the right to a free public education for students who
738 have not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1 of the school year, pursuant to Chapter 1 (§ 22.1-1 et
739 seq.), to the parent of students who fail to graduate or who have failed to achieve graduation requirements as
740 provided in the standards for accreditation. If such student who does not graduate or complete such

741 requirements is a student for whom English is a second language, the local school board shall notify the
 742 parent of the student's opportunity for a free public education in accordance with § 22.1-5.

743 D. In establishing graduation requirements, the Board shall:

744 1. Develop and implement, in consultation with stakeholders representing elementary and secondary
 745 education, higher education, and business and industry in the Commonwealth and including parents,
 746 policymakers, and community leaders in the Commonwealth, a Profile of a Virginia Graduate that identifies
 747 the knowledge and skills that students should attain during high school in order to be successful contributors
 748 to the economy of the Commonwealth, giving due consideration to critical thinking, creative thinking,
 749 collaboration, communication, and citizenship.

750 2. Emphasize the development of core skill sets in the early years of high school.

751 3. Establish multiple paths toward college and career readiness for students to follow in the later years of
 752 high school. Each such pathway shall include opportunities for internships, externships, and credentialing.

753 4. Provide for the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and approved
 754 by the Board to satisfy graduation requirements, which shall include Standards of Learning testing, as
 755 necessary.

756 5. Require students to complete at least one course in fine or performing arts or career and technical
 757 education, one course in United States and Virginia history, and two sequential elective courses chosen from
 758 a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options that may be planned to ensure the completion of
 759 a focused sequence of elective courses that provides a foundation for further education or training or
 760 preparation for employment.

761 6. Require that students (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual
 762 enrollment course; (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience, as defined by the Board; or
 763 (iii) earn a career and technical education credential that has been approved by the Board, including its
 764 diploma seal of biliteracy established pursuant to subdivision E 4 *and its diploma seal for excellence in fine*
765 arts established pursuant to subdivision E 5, except when a career and technical education credential in a
 766 particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student
 767 competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject
 768 area to earn credit. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful
 769 completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency
 770 assessment, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, the Virginia workplace readiness skills
 771 assessment, or, in the case of the diploma seal of biliteracy, any examination set forth in subdivision E 4, *or*
772 in the case of the diploma seal for excellence in fine arts, any performance-based criteria established by the
773 Board in accordance with subdivision E 5. The Department shall develop, maintain, and make available to
 774 each local school board a catalogue of the testing accommodations available to English language learners for
 775 each such certification, examination, assessment, and battery. Each local school board shall develop and
 776 implement policies to require each high school principal or his designee to notify each English language
 777 learner of the availability of such testing accommodations prior to the student's participation in any such
 778 certification, examination, assessment, or battery.

779 7. Require students to be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of
 780 automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform
 781 cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

782 8. Make provision in its regulations for students with disabilities to earn a diploma.

783 9. Require students to complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course.

784 10. Provide that students who complete elective classes into which the Standards of Learning for any
 785 required course have been integrated and achieve a passing score on the relevant Standards of Learning test
 786 for the relevant required course receive credit for such elective class.

787 11. Establish a procedure to facilitate the acceleration of students that allows qualified students, with the
 788 recommendation of the division superintendent, without completing the 140-hour class, to obtain credit for
 789 such class upon demonstrating mastery of the course content and objectives and receiving a passing score on
 790 the relevant Standards of Learning assessment. Nothing in this section shall preclude relevant school division
 791 personnel from enforcing compulsory attendance in public schools.

792 12. Provide for the award of credit for passing scores on industry certifications, state licensure
 793 examinations, and national occupational competency assessments approved by the Board.

794 School boards shall report annually to the Board the number of Board-approved industry certifications
 795 obtained, state licensure examinations passed, national occupational competency assessments passed, Armed
 796 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery assessments passed, and Virginia workplace readiness skills
 797 assessments passed, and the number of career and technical education completers who graduated. These
 798 numbers shall be reported as separate categories on the School Performance Report Card.

799 For the purposes of this subdivision, "career and technical education completer" means a student who has
 800 met the requirements for a career and technical concentration or specialization and all requirements for high
 801 school graduation or an approved alternative education program.

802 In addition, the Board may:

803 a. For the purpose of awarding credit, approve the use of additional or substitute tests for the correlated
804 Standards of Learning assessment, such as academic achievement tests, industry certifications, or state
805 licensure examinations; and

806 b. Permit students completing career and technical education programs designed to enable such students
807 to pass such industry certification examinations or state licensure examinations to be awarded, upon obtaining
808 satisfactory scores on such industry certification or licensure examinations, appropriate credit for one or more
809 career and technical education classes into which relevant Standards of Learning for various classes taught at
810 the same level have been integrated. Such industry certification and state licensure examinations may cover
811 relevant Standards of Learning for various required classes and may, at the discretion of the Board, address
812 some Standards of Learning for several required classes.

813 13. Provide for the waiver of certain graduation requirements and the subsequent award of a high school
814 diploma (i) upon the Board's initiative, (ii) at the request of a local school board, or (iii) upon the request of
815 the parent of any high school senior who died in good standing prior to graduation during the student's senior
816 year. Such waivers shall be granted only for good cause and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

817 14. Consider all computer science course credits earned by students to be science course credits,
818 mathematics course credits, or career and technical education credits. The Board shall develop guidelines
819 addressing how computer science courses can satisfy graduation requirements.

820 15. Permit local school divisions to waive the requirement for students to receive 140 clock hours of
821 instruction upon providing the Board with satisfactory proof, based on Board guidelines, that the students for
822 whom such requirements are waived have learned the content and skills included in the relevant Standards of
823 Learning.

824 16. Provide for the award of verified units of credit for a satisfactory score, as determined by the Board,
825 on the Preliminary ACT (PreACT) or Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
826 (PSAT/NMSQT) examination.

827 17. Permit students to exceed a full course load in order to participate in courses offered by an institution
828 of higher education that lead to a degree, certificate, or credential at such institution.

829 18. Permit local school divisions to waive the requirement for students to receive 140 clock hours of
830 instruction after the student has completed the course curriculum and relevant Standards of Learning end-of-
831 course assessment, or Board-approved substitute, provided that such student subsequently receives
832 instruction, coursework, or study toward an industry certification approved by the local school board.

833 19. Permit any English language learner who previously earned a sufficient score on an Advanced
834 Placement or International Baccalaureate foreign language examination or an SAT II Subject Test in a
835 foreign language to substitute computer coding course credit for any foreign language course credit required
836 to graduate, except in cases in which such foreign language course credit is required to earn an advanced
837 diploma offered by a nationally recognized provider of college-level courses.

838 20. Permit a student who is pursuing an advanced diploma and whose individualized education program
839 specifies a credit accommodation for world language to substitute two standard units of credit in computer
840 science for two standard units of credit in a world language. For any student that elects to substitute a credit
841 in computer science for credit in world language, his or her school counselor must provide notice to the
842 student and parent or guardian of possible impacts related to college entrance requirements.

843 21. Permit any student to substitute elective credits for completion of any industry-approved workforce
844 credential, provided that such credential is included on the list of credentials that are uniformly accepted as
845 substitutes for such required credits developed and maintained by the Board pursuant to subsection F of
846 § 22.1-253.13:1.

847 E. In the exercise of its authority to recognize exemplary performance by providing for diploma seals:

848 1. The Board shall develop criteria for recognizing exemplary performance in career and technical
849 education programs by students who have completed the requirements for a Board of Education-approved
850 diploma and shall award seals on the diplomas of students meeting such criteria.

851 2. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for science, technology, engineering, and
852 mathematics (STEM) for the Board-approved diplomas. The Board shall consider including criteria for (i)
853 relevant coursework; (ii) technical writing, reading, and oral communication skills; (iii) relevant training; and
854 (iv) industry, professional, and trade association national certifications.

855 3. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for excellence in civics education and
856 understanding of our state and federal constitutions and the democratic model of government for the Board-
857 approved diplomas. The Board shall consider including criteria for (i) successful completion of history,
858 government, and civics courses, including courses that incorporate character education; (ii) voluntary
859 participation in community service or extracurricular activities that includes the types of activities that shall
860 qualify as community service and the number of hours required; and (iii) related requirements as it deems
861 appropriate.

862 4. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy to any student who
863 demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one other language for the Board-approved diplomas. The

864 Board shall consider criteria including the student's (i) score on a College Board Advanced Placement foreign
865 language examination, (ii) score on an SAT II Subject Test in a foreign language, (iii) proficiency level on an
866 ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) measure or another
867 nationally or internationally recognized language proficiency test, or (iv) cumulative grade point average in a
868 sequence of foreign language courses approved by the Board.

869 *5. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for excellence in fine arts, which may
870 include a sequence of coursework, cumulative grade point average in such sequence of coursework, or any
871 other performance-based criteria that the Board deems appropriate.*

872 F. The Board shall establish, by regulation, requirements for the award of a general achievement adult
873 high school diploma for those persons who are not subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements
874 of § 22.1-254 and have (i) achieved a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by
875 the Board; (ii) successfully completed an education and training program designated by the Board; (iii)
876 earned a Board-approved career and technical education credential such as the successful completion of an
877 industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, the
878 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment; and (iv)
879 satisfied other requirements as may be established by the Board for the award of such diploma.

880 G. To ensure the uniform assessment of high school graduation rates, the Board shall collect, analyze,
881 report, and make available to the public high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed
882 by the Board.

883 H. The Board shall also collect, analyze, report, and make available to the public high school graduation
884 and dropout data using a formula that excludes any student who fails to graduate because such student is in
885 the custody of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or local law enforcement.
886 For the purposes of the Standards of Accreditation, the Board shall use the graduation rate required by this
887 subsection.

888 I. The Board may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate for the collection,
889 analysis, and reporting of such data required by subsections G and H.