

SOL Information and Student Impact

Elementary School

Virginia Department of Education regulations require students to take Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in grades 3, 4, and 5. The 2014 Acts of Assembly eliminated three SOL assessments at the elementary school level: (1) Grade 3 History, (2) Grade 3 Science, and (3) Grade 5 Writing. However, school divisions are required to teach and assess the curricula in these eliminated SOLs using local alternative assessments.

Students in grades 3 take SOL assessments in Reading and Mathematics. Students in grade 4 take SOL assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and History. Students in grade 5 take SOL assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. The scores range from 0 to 600 with 400 to 499 being Pass Proficient and 500 to 600 being Pass Advanced. Students who do not pass an SOL assessment and are close to passing (375-399) will be offered an expedited retake. Additionally, students who do not pass an SOL assessment may be considered for remediation programs and/or summer school. Failing an SOL assessment may also be used as one of many criteria—but cannot be the sole reason—for retention.

SOL Assessment Given at Each Elementary School Grade Level

Grade	Reading	Writing	Math	History	Science
3	X		X		
4	X		X	X	
5	X		X		X

Beginning in Fall 2021 and full implementation in school year 2022-2023, students in grades 3-5 will participate in a Growth Assessment in Reading and Mathematics. Students will not receive a pass/fail score but rather will serve as a baseline for growth for the year.

Middle School

Virginia Department of Education regulations require students to take Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in middle school. In Montgomery County the SOL assessments are given in the spring of each year in grades 6, 7, and 8. The 2014 Acts of Assembly eliminated two SOL assessments at the middle school level: (1) US History I—Grade 6 and (2) US History II—Grade 7. However, school divisions are required to teach and assess the curricula in these eliminated SOLs. All divisions in the State will be developing and administering alternative assessments during the 2014-2015 school year.

Students in grades 6 take Reading and Mathematics. Students in grade 7 take SOL assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Students in grade 8 take SOL assessments in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Civics and Economics, and Science. The scores range from 0 to 600 with 400 to 499 being Pass Proficient and 500 to 600 being Pass Advanced. Students who do not pass an SOL may be considered for remediation programs and/or summer school. Failing an SOL assessment may also be used as one of

many criteria for retention. Students who fail the Reading and/or Mathematics SOL assessments in grade 8 will have an opportunity to retake the test the following year.

Additionally, students who enroll in a high school credit-bearing course with an accompanying SOL assessment, such as Algebra I and Geometry must take the SOL assessment upon conclusion of the course. Students who do not pass one of the SOL assessments at the high-school level will be considered for remediation programs and will be given the opportunity to retake the SOL assessment at each available opportunity.

SOL Assessment Given at Each Middle School Grade Level

Grade	Reading	Writing	Math	History	Science
6	X		X		
7	X		X		X
8	X	X	X	X	X

Beginning in Fall 2021 and full implementation in school year 2022-2023, students in grades 6-8 will participate in a Growth Assessment in Reading and Mathematics. Students will not receive a pass/fail score but rather will serve as a baseline for growth for the year.

High School

Virginia Department of Education regulations require students to take and pass Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in order to graduate from high school with a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma. When students pass a high school course **and** pass the SOL assessment associated with that course, the student earns a *verified credit*. Verified credits can be earned in the following courses:

- English: Reading/Literature/Research
- English: Writing
- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- US & Virginia History
- World History I
- World History II
- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry

For students who entered the 9th grade *prior* to the 2018-19 school year, in order to earn a Standard Diploma, students must earn six verified credits. These verified credits are as follows:

- 2 in English:
 - Reading
 - Writing
- 1 in Mathematics
- 1 in History/Social Science
- 1 in Science
- 1 other of the student's choosing

For students who entered the 9th grade *prior* to the 2018-19 school year, in order to earn an Advanced Studies Diploma, students must earn nine verified credits. These verified credits are as follows:

- 2 in English:
 - Reading
 - Writing
- 2 in Mathematics
- 2 in History/Social Science
- 2 in Science
- 1 other of the student's choosing

For students who entered the 9th grade in the 2018-19 school year and beyond, in order to earn a Standard ***or*** Advanced Studies Diploma, students must earn five verified credits. These verified credits are as follows:

- 2 in English:
 - Reading
 - Writing
- 1 in Mathematics
- 1 in History/Social Science
- 1 in Science

Students who do not pass one of the SOL assessments at the high-school level will be considered for remediation programs and will be given the opportunity to retake the SOL assessment at each available opportunity.