

# Using the Virginia Standards of Learning Standards of Learning (SOL) Resources



From a Presentation Given by Dr. Yvonne Holloman, Director  
Office of School Improvement, VDOE

# What is a Verified Credit?



# Standard Diploma Requirements

| Discipline Area                | Units of Credit | Verified Credit |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| English                        | 4               | 2               |
| Mathematics                    | 3               | 1               |
| Science                        | 3               | 1               |
| History and Social Science     | 3               | 1               |
| Health and PE                  | 2               | N/A             |
| Fine Arts or World Language    | 1               | N/A             |
| Economics and Personal Finance | 1               | N/A             |
| Career and Technical Education | 4               | N/A             |
| Electives                      | 1               | N/A             |
| Student Selected               |                 | 1               |
| Total                          | 22              | 6               |

# Advanced Diploma Requirements

| Discipline Area                             | Units of Credit   | Verified Credit |
|---|---|-----------------|
| English                                     | 4   | 2               |
| Mathematics                                 | 4   | 2               |
| Science                                     | 4   | 2               |
| History and Social Science                  | 4   | 2               |
| World Language                              | 3   | N/A             |
| Health and PE                               | 2   | N/A             |
| Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education | 1   | N/A             |
| Economics and Personal Finance              | 1 (Beginning with 2011-2012 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders)            | N/A             |
| Electives                                   | 3   | N/A             |
| Student Selected Test                       |   | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>24/26</b> (Beginning with 2011-2012 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders) | <b>9</b>        |

# Why are the SOL's Changing?



# What parents should know about the new mathematics standards

Virginia's new mathematics standards are a key component of a broader initiative to ensure that young Virginians are truly college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The mathematics standards and corresponding tests reflect the fact that today's students require more rigorous mathematical knowledge and skills to pursue higher education and to compete in a technologically sophisticated work force.

The Standards of Learning (SOL) for each subject identify the essential academic content for each grade level and course. The Virginia Board of Education revised the Mathematics SOL in 2009 to ensure that Virginia graduates will continue to compete successfully with their peers in other states and countries in the global economy.

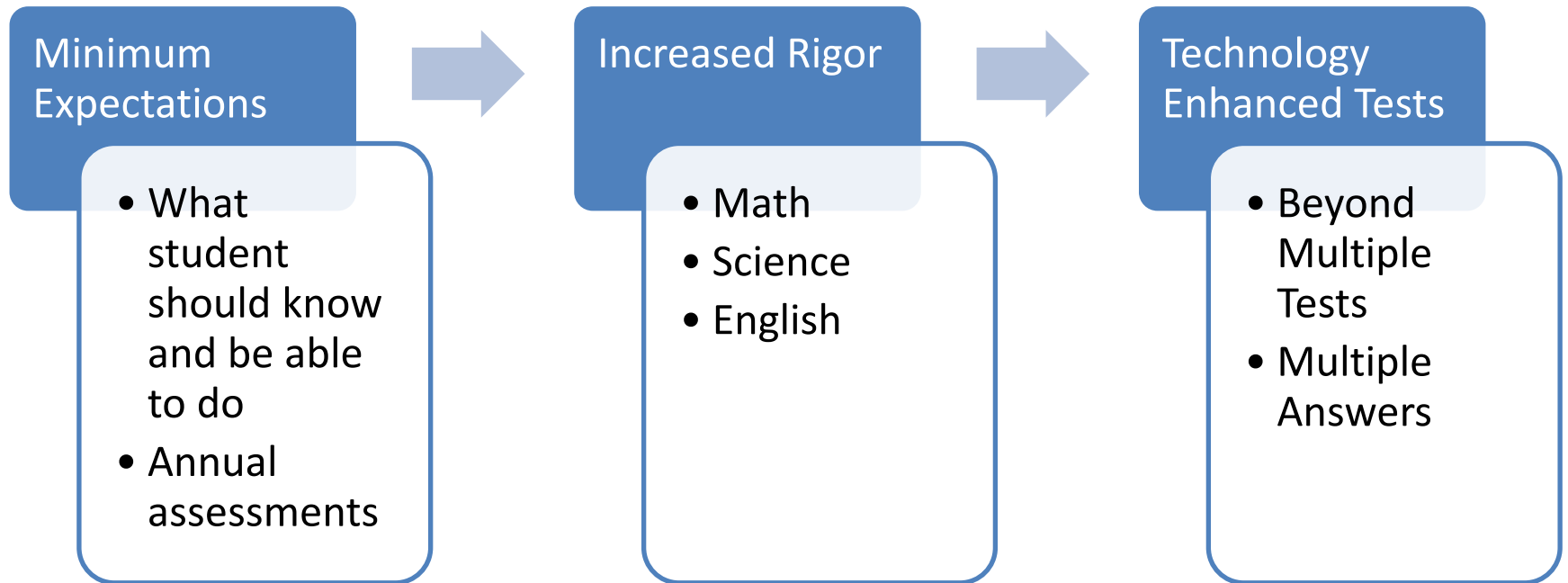
The revision process drew upon the expertise of national organizations such as the College Board and ACT (publishers of the SAT and ACT college-admissions tests), college faculty and classroom teachers and mathematics specialists from Virginia school divisions.

The new mathematics standards also are equal in rigor and depth to the national model standards — known as the Common Core State Standards — that many states have adopted.

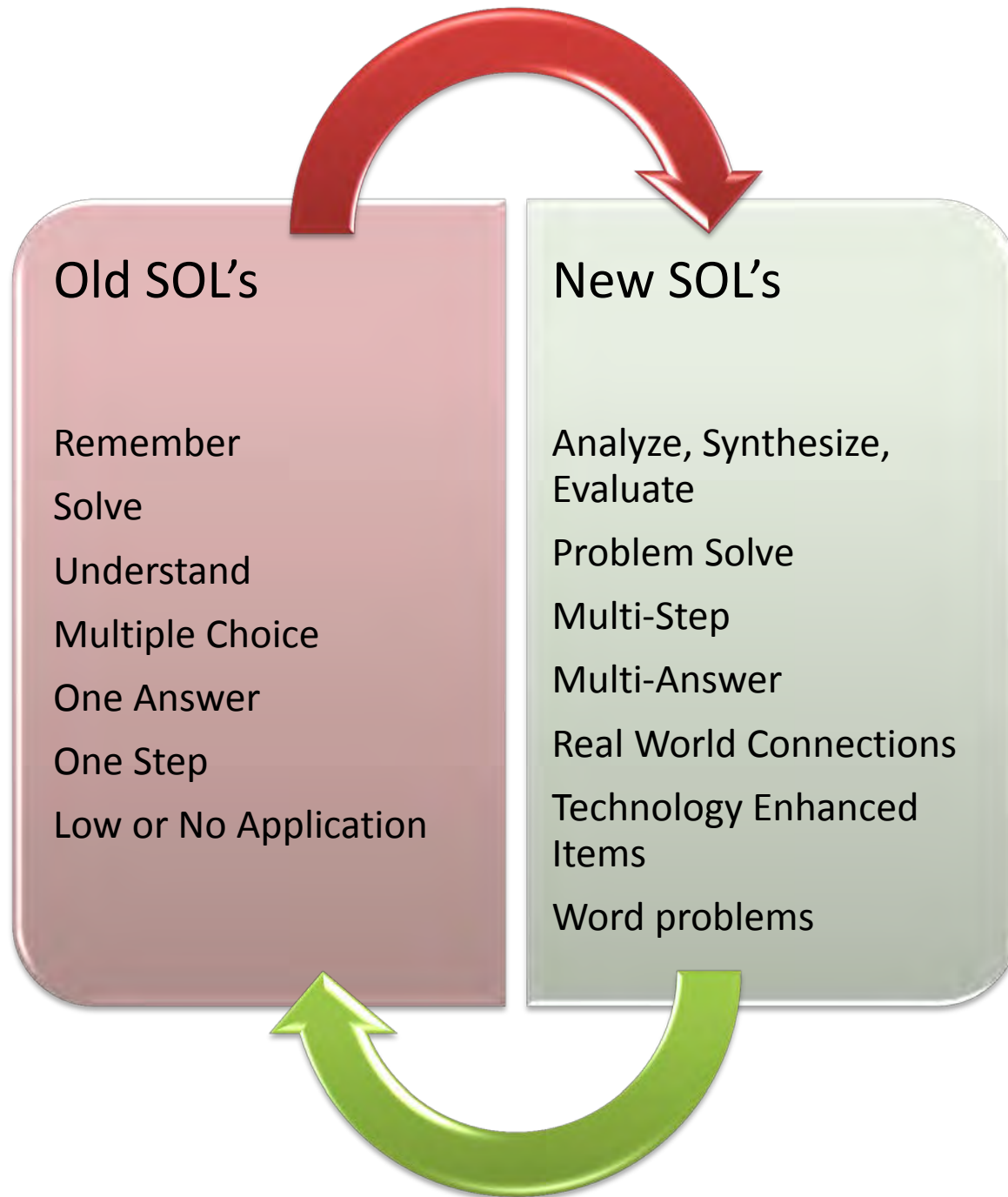
# New Tests Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education



# Standards of Learning (SOL) and Testing







## Old SOL's

Remember

Solve

Understand

Multiple Choice

One Answer

One Step

Low or No Application

## New SOL's

Analyze, Synthesize,  
Evaluate

Problem Solve

Multi-Step

Multi-Answer

Real World Connections

Technology Enhanced  
Items

Word problems

# Teachers Discuss the New Tests



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# Technology Enhanced Items: A Video Demonstration



# English 11 Writing SOL Test: Persuasive Paper Checklist

## Prewriting

Choose a position/topic  
Generate ideas for specific audience and purpose

## Drafting

Produce arguments to support my position  
Defend my position with facts, examples, data, and reasons  
Show evidence to support each main point of an argument  
Justify why the evidence is credible  
Introduce claims, acknowledged and distinguished the claims from alternate opposing claims – address counterclaims  
Organized the reasons and evidence logically  
Produced sound judgments of effective conclusions

## Revising/Editing

Proofread for Standard English  
Used appropriate transitions to link sentences and paragraphs  
Varied sentence patterns  
Adapted content, vocabulary, voice, and tone to audience, purpose, and situation



Some say that the journey is more important than the destination. They argue that people find more joy and satisfaction in working toward a goal than in achieving it. Others say that it is the destination that gives meaning to the journey. They argue that the process of working toward a goal would be meaningless without its achievement. Take a position on this issue. Use reasons and specific examples to support your ideas.



Many schools require students to participate in volunteer programs in their communities as a requirement for graduation. However, some people feel that requiring students to volunteer defeats the purpose of volunteering. Do you think students should be required to volunteer in their communities to receive their high school diplomas? Take a position on this issue. Support your response with reasons and specific examples.



Because of safety concerns, many states have increased the age at which teens can begin to drive. Your state legislature is considering raising the minimum driving age from 16 to 18. Do you think the minimum driving age should be raised? Take a position on this issue. Support your response with reasons and specific examples.

“Some schools use cell phones in the classroom for educational purposes. Think about the effects of allowing students to have and use cell phones in classrooms. Take a position on this issue. Use reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.”

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# Writing Test Practice Items



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# Reading Test Practice Items



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# Science Test Practice Items



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# Math Test Practice Items



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# What Denbigh is Doing to Prepare Students and Support Teachers...



Lesson plans focus on students' level of thinking



2 Week Formative Assessment Cycle



FLEX Every Wednesday



After School Tutorials



In School Pull-Outs in Math and Social Studies




Saturday Academy



Hired Retired Math and Social Studies Teacher to Help Students During the School Day

# What can parents do to help?



Have your child attend remediation and extra help sessions

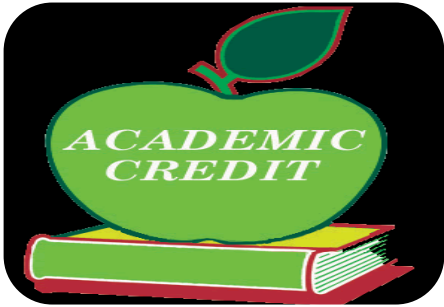
Have your child work on the released practice items

Have your child complete SOL review packets that will be available on the school's website

Call the school and make an appointment with the teacher, administrator, etc when your child is not making progress

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice\\_items/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/index.shtml)

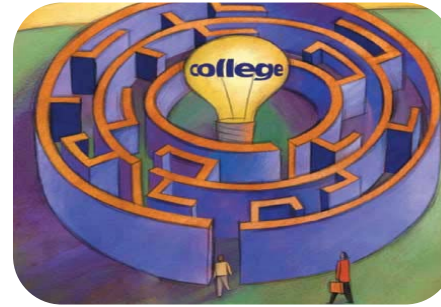
# Benefits of AP



Earn credit or placement for qualifying AP



Exam grades

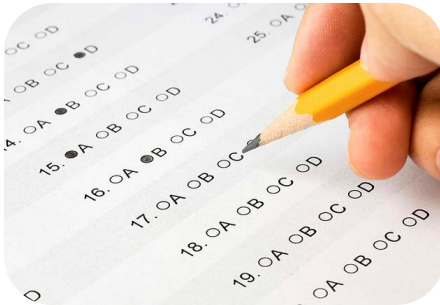


Stand out in the admissions process



**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Earn academic scholarships and awards from colleges and universities



Experience a college-level exam



Be prepared for college-level course work



Boost your GPA



# AP Course Offerings



## Science

AP Biology  
AP Environmental Science



## Math

AP Calculus  
AP Statistics



## Social Studies

AP Human Geography  
AP World History  
AP US History  
AP Government  
AP Psychology



# AP Course Offerings



## English

AP English 11

AP English 12



## Arts

AP Drawing

AP Music Theory



## Languages

AP Spanish







What to do if you want to take an AP class...

# Questions, Comments, Concerns

