

Preparing Students for What's Next (continued)

To guide communities' work in redesigning high schools, the Board of Education is changing graduation requirements so that they reflect:

- Smoother transitions to "what comes next" after high school;
- An awareness that "content knowledge", while important, is not sufficient;
- Stronger alignment with future projection of workforce needs; and
- Student experiences in higher order thinking and problem-solving.

In order to accomplish this, the Virginia Profile of a Graduate will:

- Expand the use of performance assessments and reduce the number of credits verified by SOL tests;
- Increase internships and work-based learning experiences;
- Increase career exposure, exploration, and planning; and
- Emphasize the "5 Cs" (critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship).

This work is challenging to be sure, but challenges generally present themselves because opportunities exist. The Board of Education is working diligently to create a policy framework that encourages schools to move forward with innovative programs that engage students in powerful, relevant learning experiences. We encourage you to not just follow this work but to be a partner in it. Let us hear from you. Share your ideas through VASCD, social media, and other channels available to you. The challenge is great, but the opportunity is greater!

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