

Appendix A

Definitions and Acronyms

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4-6 Year Academic Plan: An individualized academic plan completed and updated annually by counselors in collaboration with students in grades 6-12. The goals of the plan are to link a student's career interests to course selection, and to help the student meet rigorous graduation requirements with a strong correlation to post-graduation goals.

Advanced Studies Diploma: A rigorous Virginia high school diploma option, which requires 26 course credits earned with 9 of those credits being verified credits.

AP (Advanced Placement): An intensive program of college level curricula and examinations developed by the College Board that provides high school students with an opportunity to earn college credit at participating colleges and universities across the country. The AP program offers students an opportunity to develop their academic strengths through rigorous curricula and challenging national examinations and exposes them to academic experiences usually reserved for college students.

CanDo: A database developed by CTE teachers, APS students, and professionals for teachers to track student competency attainment within each CTE course of study. CanDo was adopted by VDOE as a tool to be used within the state.

CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System): A classroom observation tool developed at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. It aims to provide a common lens and language focused on classroom interactions that encourage student learning. The secondary CLASS tool organizes teacher-student interactions into four broad domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, Instructional Support, and Student Engagement.

Competency Attainment: Competencies are the required skills necessary for a given CTE course of study. CTE teachers track competency attainment for all students and competency attainment rates are reported to VDOE annually.

CTAE (Career, Technical, and Adult Education): The Arlington Public Schools office that comprises the CTE program and the adult education program

CTE (Career and Technical Education): A program that provides students with technical knowledge and skills in a particular career program area

CTE Completer/Finisher: A student is CTE **finisher** when he/she has completed a CTE sequence, which is defined as taking two sequential CTE courses in the same program area (for example, Auto I and Auto II). When the student graduates, he/she is classified as a **completer**.

CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization): National organization that provides students with leadership and workplace experiences and offers competitions at the regional, state, and national levels. APS CTE students are encouraged to participate in five CTOS focusing on business and marketing, technical education, trade and industrial education, and FACS education: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Technology Student Association (TSA), SkillsUSA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), and DECA.

Dual Enrollment: An enrichment opportunity that allows APS high school students to earn college credits for courses taken through a number of colleges while still being enrolled in the high school class. As a dual enrolled student, a student takes a course at their high school and is enrolled in both high school and college. Teachers of dual enrolled courses are adjunct instructors and students need to meet Northern Virginia Community College admission requirements to receive college credit.

EFL (Educational Functioning Levels): Students in the adult education GED program take placement tests to assess their EFL in reading and math. EFLs range from Adult Basic Education Beginning Literacy to Adult Secondary Education High.

FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences): CTE program area that includes classes such as Child Development and Parenting, Interior and Fashion Design, and Food and Fitness

GED (General Education Development): A series of four assessments in the core content areas that confer a certification widely accepted as equivalent to a high school diploma

IB (International Baccalaureate): An academic program licensed by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) that, upon successful completion, results in the awarding of a high school degree. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of international awareness and responsible citizenship for students.

Industry Credential: Industry-specific tests that measure the skills necessary to be competent in the field related to the test. Assessments include state and national licenses, industry credentials, or occupational competency tests developed for a specific industry. Students learn the skills within the appropriate CTE class and at the end of the class sit for the related test.

ISAEP (Individual Student Alternative Education Plan): A program managed by the CTAE Office that prepares students for the GED and provides career training and counseling

NRS (National Reporting System): Reporting system for state-administered, federally funded adult education programs. To fulfill state reporting requirements, APS enters student performance on GED placement assessments into the NRS database, which produces district-level reports.

SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol): Research-based and validated model of sheltered instruction for English language learners.

SOLs (Standards of Learning): The SOLs are the Virginia Board of Education's curriculum objectives that describe the commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement by subject for grades K–12.

Standard Diploma: A Virginia high school diploma option, which requires 22 course credits earned with 6 of those credits being verified credits

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math): Term used to refer to the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics): Term used to refer to STEM disciplines which emphasizes the inclusion of arts in STEM instruction

VDOE (Virginia Department of Education): The Virginia Department of Education provides support and guidelines for CTE instruction in local divisions, as well as establishing reporting requirements to track progress. VDOE develops and implements strategic plans for relevant programs and service areas, and identifies performance measures to track progress in achieving the strategic plan objectives. These performance objectives are required of each locality.

Verified Credit: Credit awarded when a student earns a credit by passing a course and earns a passing score on the SOL test associated with the course

Work-Based Learning Opportunity: Experiences outside of school that offer opportunities for CTE students to learn about and gain skills in specific jobs. Opportunities available to APS students include job shadowing, mentorships, internships, work experience programs, and cooperative education.