SPRING 2020 FAQ for High Schools

While schools are closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic school year for in-person instruction, learning at RPS will continue. Per the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), “School divisions are encouraged to focus on providing guidance on organizing a student’s daily schedule and on instructional activities that will assist in continuing thinking, learning, and inquiry for all students.” Specifically, school divisions are to focus efforts on “identifying the specific content in core content areas that had not already been taught as of Friday, March 13, 2020 (the day schools across the state were closed); and developing an equitable plan to incorporate the missing content in core content areas into a curriculum for all students. School divisions should also provide instruction addressing missing content in non-core content areas as much as possible.”

While VDOE has issued specific guidelines for elementary and secondary grades, school divisions are granted flexibility in deciding how to best continue learning during this time. At RPS, we have heard from families, students and educators that continued support for learning at home is desired, and the plans outlined herein take into account specific VDOE guidelines, where relevant.

RPS is offering continuous learning opportunities through technology, and is working to ensure every family who needs a computer has one to continue learning. In the meantime, we will also make new packets for continued learning available while awaiting a device (available April 13th).

After reading this information, high school students should click “Complete Coursework” on the RPS@Home page.

High School (Grades 9-11 only) Students Enrolled in High School Credit-Bearing Courses Graduating in 2021 or After

Based on VDOE guidance, certain accommodations are being made to ensure high school students can continue to make progress towards graduation during this closure. For high school school students graduating in 2021 and beyond, students will be able to earn standard course credit for the courses they were enrolled in as of March 13, 2020. To do so under VDOE guidelines, school divisions are to identify the specific remaining content that had not been taught as of Friday, March 13, 2020, and develop a plan to have students access that missing content, with a particular focus on content that is essential for success in subsequent coursework.

Course Credits: Current RPS students in grades 9-11 (and MS students taking high school credit-bearing courses) will have the opportunity to earn standard course credit by:

- Successfully completing the Spring 2020 learning module through Edgenuity Courseware and/or alternative means as outlined by course in the High School section of the Spring 2020 Learning Plan. Core content classes will be available for enrollment on Wednesday, April 8th; and high school CTE and elective courses will be available on Monday, April 13th.
- Students must successfully complete at least 80% of the module as assigned in order to receive full course credit. If not, students will have the opportunity to enroll in credit recovery during summer session.
- Students who do not complete the module by June 6, 2020 will receive an “I” on their transcript until such module(s) are completed in order to earn a standard course credit.
- Supports and Accommodations for ESL and students with IEPs will be provided.
- On-demand tutoring will be available for any students needing additional instructional support (provided by our current tutoring partners, Axiom and PCG).
- For students enrolled in AP courses, please see separate guidance below.

Note: The plans outlined herein provide high school students an opportunity to complete courses and earn course credits towards graduation. However, students will still go on to the next grade level and sequential course. For example, a freshman enrolled in Geometry will still be able to enroll in Algebra II in 2020-21, but they will not receive course credit for Geometry until they complete the Spring 2020 learning module.

Verified Credits: Current RPS students in grades 9-11 (and MS students taking high school credit-bearing courses) will not have the opportunity to take an associated SOL assessment for core content area courses this spring, required to earn a verified credit towards graduation. However, students who successfully earn a course credit through the above means, are also eligible for a Locally-Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC). For the 2019-20 school year only, the state has waived the criteria to be considered for an LAVC, and students do not need to have taken the SOL twice, nor have scored between a 375-399 to be eligible for an LAVC. In short, all students who successfully complete the Spring 2020 module and earn the course credit, will also earn an LAVC towards their verified credit for each associated course for which they were enrolled on as of March 13, 2020. Additionally, any LAVCs granted as a result of this waiver will not count towards the cap of three LAVCs to be used for future courses.

High School (Seniors only)
Seniors who are scheduled to graduate in 2019-20 school year
The VDOE has provided for numerous waivers of graduation requirements for current seniors, and are available to students based on the extent to which they are considered “on-track” to graduate on time. For seniors, the following graduation requirements are waived (* likely waived pending state board of education action):
- Students currently enrolled in a course for which they need a standard or verified credit in order to graduate;
- Students who have successfully completed a course required for graduation, but have not earned the associated verified credit;
- Students who have not completed the student-selected test;
- Students who are currently enrolled in or have previously completed a course leading to a CTE credential necessary for a Standard Diploma but have not yet earned the credential;
- Students who have not completed a United States and Virginia history course*;
- Students who have not completed a fine or performing arts or career and technical education course*;
- Students in the second of sequential courses*;
- Students who have not completed an economics and personal finance course*.

While we anticipate a state waiver on the following graduation requirements, action by the General Assembly is required for the waiver of requirements in the Code of Virginia:
- Seniors who have not completed training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators; and
- Seniors who have not completed a virtual course.

RPS seniors who are on track to graduate will have already met these requirements towards graduation, as they are built into other graduation requirements (students taking PE & Health 10 receive the required
training in emergency first aid, CPR, etc) and students who have taken or are taking Econ/Personal Finance have already met the virtual requirement.

**Bottom Line, What Does this Mean for Seniors?**

There are four scenarios for seniors, based on their graduation progress status as of March 13, 2020. High School counselors are currently reviewing all senior transcripts and determining which seniors qualify for which scenario. Letters indicating senior status and next steps will be sent home by April 10th and high school counselors will conduct 1:1 virtual meetings with seniors beginning the week of April 6th to discuss their status and next steps to ensure on-time graduation and post-secondary plans. If seniors have not heard from their school counselor by April 10th, they should email their principal and counselor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>“On-Track”</td>
<td>• All state waivers apply, and students are certified for graduation.</td>
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<td>As of 3/13/20 were considered on track to successfully complete their current courses and remaining verified credits, and if so, would result in on-time graduation. This means that there are no missing courses to take, and that Semester One grades were considered passing.</td>
<td>• If enrolled in an AP course, prepare for and take the AP exam to earn credit.</td>
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<td>• If enrolled in ECA, complete coursework through Reynolds guidance.</td>
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<td>• May choose to participate in additional learning at their own choice.</td>
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<td>• Meet with your high school counselor to confirm post-graduation plans and needed support.</td>
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<td>Group 2</td>
<td>“Mostly On-Track”</td>
<td>• For courses with an “F” at the end of Semester One, the student must complete the Spring 2020 Learning Module via Edgenuity for any such course, or the prescribed alternative coursework.</td>
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<td>As of 3/13/20 were enrolled in courses required to graduate on time, but were failing one or more courses at the end of Semester One.</td>
<td>• Upon completion of the module, seniors will earn course credit, and all state waivers will apply; and the student is certified for graduation.</td>
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<td>• If enrolled in an AP course, prepare for and take the AP exam to earn credit.</td>
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<td>Group 3</td>
<td>On-Track Potential</td>
<td>Step One: Successfully complete current coursework:</td>
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<td>As of 3/13/20, seniors NOT enrolled in a course for which they need a standard or verified credit in order to graduate. These are seniors who would have needed summer school to graduate.</td>
<td>• For courses with an “F” at the end of Semester One, the student must complete the Spring 2020 Learning Module via Edgenuity for any such course, or the prescribed alternative coursework.</td>
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<td>• Upon completion of the module, seniors will earn course credit, and all state waivers will apply; and the student is certified for graduation.</td>
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<td>• If enrolled in an AP course, prepare for and take the AP exam to earn credit.</td>
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<td>Step Two: Earn credit for missing graduation requirements:</td>
<td>• Enroll in up to 2 “Senior Session One” courses now to complete courses for initial credit or credit recovery.</td>
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<td>• Please Note: Verified credit(s) must be obtained for any course student is newly enrolled in, if needed to meet graduation requirements. If this is a course for credit recovery and the student</td>
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<td>Group 4</td>
<td>Summer Graduate Potential</td>
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<td>Seniors who are missing numerous course credits such that they would have needed to return for the 2020 school year. However, with the state waivers, they may have the opportunity to graduate during the summer if coursework for initial credit or credit recovery is completed and relevant verified credits are earned.</td>
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**Step One: Successfully complete current coursework:**

- For courses with an “F” at the end of Semester One, the student must complete the Spring 2020 Learning Module via Edgenuity for any such course, or the prescribed alternative coursework.
- Upon completion of the module, seniors will earn course credit, and all state waivers will apply; and the student is certified for graduation.
- If enrolled in an AP course, prepare for and take the AP exam to earn credit.

**Step Two: Earn credit for missing graduation requirements:**

- Enroll in up to 2 ‘Senior Session One’ courses now to complete courses for initial credit/credit recovery.
- Enroll in up to 2 ‘Senior Session Two’ courses to complete course for initial credit/credit recovery (aka summer school)
- Please Note: Verified credit(s) must be obtained for any course student is newly enrolled in, if needed to meet graduation requirements. If this is a course for credit recovery and the student has attempted the verified credit previously, you may be eligible for an LAVC; if this is a course for initial credit, you must take and pass the associated SOL in summer 2020.
- Meet with your high school counselor to confirm post-graduation plans and needed support.

**SENIOR COURSE WAIVER UPDATE:**

Please note the additional guidance is for seniors in the course scenarios listed below:

- Students who have not completed a United States and Virginia history course*;
- Students who have not completed a fine or performing arts or career and technical education course*;
- Students in the second of sequential courses*;
- Students who have not completed an economics and personal finance course*.

In the above scenarios, seniors (2019-2020 cohort) in group 1 are not required to complete any further coursework. They will receive credit for those courses based on the additional guidance provided below:

Students that were enrolled and successfully completing the course on March 13th will be given credit based on the guidance from State Superintendent's Memo 83-20. The memo states that a waiver can be provided if the following are true:

- The student was currently enrolled in a course and/or training required for graduation during the spring 2020 term OR enrolled in a course and/or training required for graduation at the end of the summer 2020 term;

- **AND**

- The student has demonstrated mastery in a *majority of the standards, competencies, and objectives* in the entire course and/or training. Mastery may be determined by a student’s grades in the course as of March 13, 2020.
Students that are NOT seniors in this cohort should follow the standing guidance on course module completion.

For Students enrolled in Virtual Virginia?
Students enrolled in VVA courses will continue working on courses and remain in contact with VVA teachers via phone, email, LMS, or web conferencing. VVA teachers will be flexible and work with individual students who are not able to access online course content or tools. VVA will continue to be flexible with students and will work with schools as needed to adapt instruction to the needs of our shared students. VVA faculty will continue to teach, conduct live online instruction sessions with students, and remain available to parents, counselors, mentors, and students for the duration of any extended school closure.

Students are encouraged to contact teachers as they need assistance. Additional questions regarding Virtual Virginia should be directed to Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director (brian.mott@virtualva.org).

For Students enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses?
Students enrolled in AP courses should continue their studies and make plans to take the AP exams in May. College Board is providing a virtual exam solution (and RPS has already paid for all AP students to take the exam so they have the opportunity to earn college credit). Resources are available on our RPS@Home website to guide students in continuing their AP coursework and exam prep. Students enrolled in AP courses will receive course credit when they take the exam. Students who do not take the exam will have an “I” on their transcript and will need to complete a learning module to earn credit.

- Some students may want to take the exam sooner rather than later, while the content is still fresh. Other students may want more time to practice. For each AP subject, there will be 2 different testing dates.
- For the 2019-20 exam administration only, you can take a 45-minute online exam at home. Note: Students taking Art and Design: 2D, Art and Design: 3D, Computer Science Principles, Drawing, Research, and Seminar will not take online exams. AP scores for these courses will be based on work submitted via their respective digital portfolios.
- The exam will only include topics and skills most AP teachers already covered in class by early March.
- The exam questions are designed in ways that prevent cheating. We use a range of digital security tools and techniques, including plagiarism detection software, to protect the integrity of the exams.
- You’ll be able to take these streamlined exams on any device you have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option.
- And while we encourage students to wait until closer to the test date to decide, any student already registered for an exam can choose to cancel at no charge.

For Students Enrolled in IBDP Courses
The students who did not complete one or more requirements for the March 15 upload deadline remain eligible for certificates of scores for their other courses/components.

3) The changes that IB has made with the cancellation of exams all deal with how the score for each course will be calculated. The points calculations to earn an IB Diploma remain unchanged. Within courses, IB has stated that they will calculate the score using the coursework that is still required, the predicted score from the teacher (which should take into consideration the teacher’s assessment of how the student might have performed on the exams; predicted scores are required every year but not normally calculated into the score),
and historic performance data from the school. They have not released what formula they are using for these calculations.

Students may still earn a certificate of scores for any course or component they are registered for. Some components were due to IB by March 15. These included the Written Assignment in English Literature HL/SL, the Extended Essay, and the Theory of Knowledge Essay. We worked through normal processes for these components and uploaded the work that students completed by the due date. These components continue to be a requirement for earning a score in the relevant course and the IB Diploma. The Creativity, Activity, Service requirement remains in effect and students who are registered for it and have met the requirement can complete their documentation from home. Teachers continue to have the responsibilities of scoring the Internal Assessments for their students and of certifying work students submit for their courses.

IB’s website for their COVID-19 response is here:

**GRADES & GPA**

**How will the closure affect GPA?** GPA will continue to be calculated based on the final grade for each course. The final grade for each course will be determined in accordance with forthcoming division-wide guidance on grades. As of the school closure on March 13, 2020, no new work is to be assigned for grades, however, completion of the Spring learning module is required for the aforementioned waivers to be granted.

**How will the closure affect class rank?**
For seniors, class rank was already determined at the end of semester one of senior year, consistent with board policy, so there will be no changes to senior class rank at this point. For grades 9-11, end of year grades (following above guidance) will drive GPA, which determines class rank, which is run at the end of the school year.