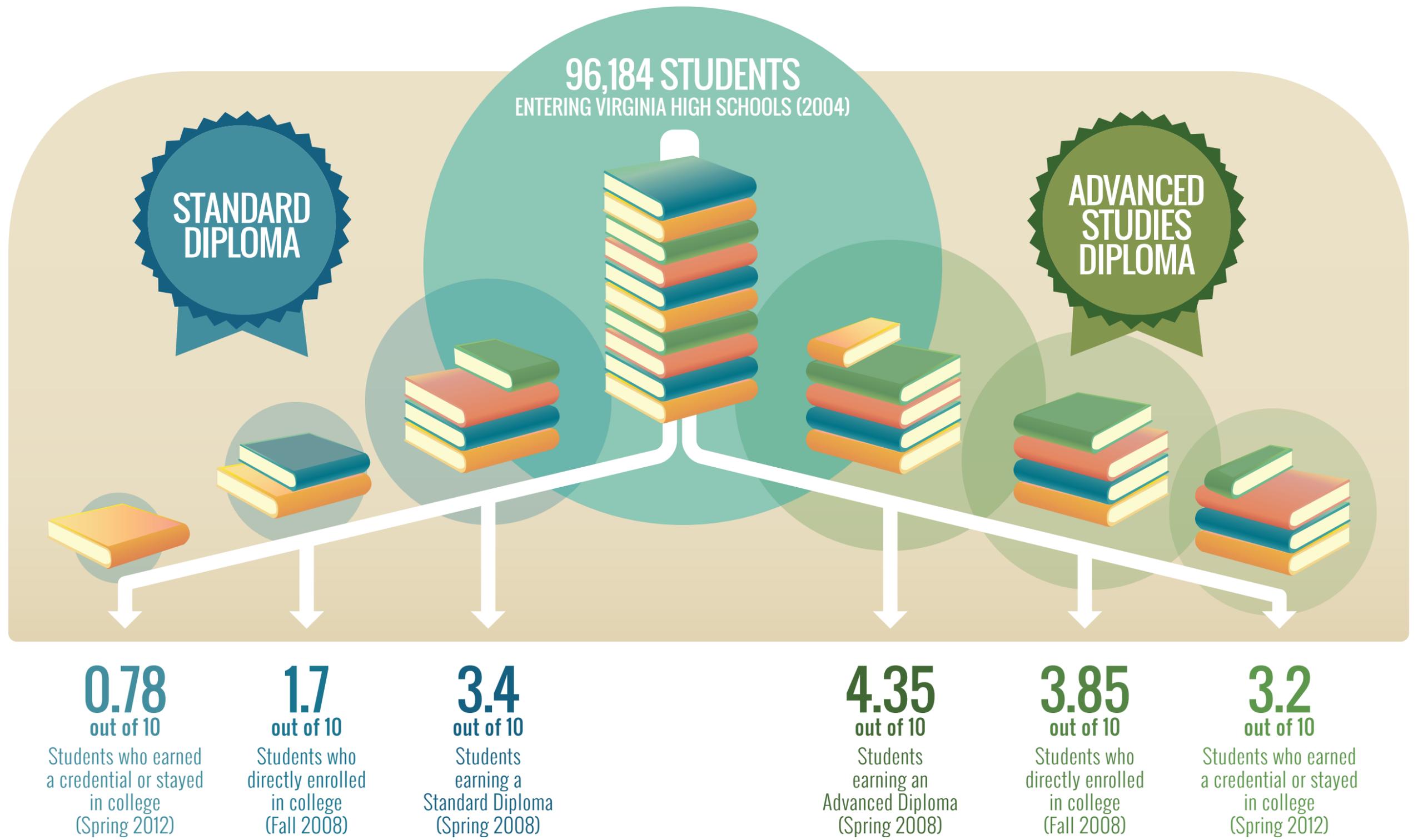


# WHY YOUR VIRGINIA DIPLOMA TYPE MATTERS



So what does this mean? Experts predict that by 2020, at least 67 percent of all jobs in Virginia will require some type of college education or training after high school (Carnevale, Smith, & Strohl, 2013). But what determines college success? This research<sup>1</sup>, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education and made possible by VLDS, shows that the courses students take in high school make a difference in whether students enroll, persist, and complete college. Graduates who earned Virginia's two main diplomas, the Standard and Advanced Studies, on average, had different college outcomes. Four years after high school, 74% of Advanced Studies diploma earners had earned a college degree or were still enrolled, compared to only 23% of Standard diploma earners. In Virginia, taking courses required in the Advanced Studies diploma sends a strong signal that students are prepared for college and other training after high school. In most cases, the standard diploma meets minimum requirements for admission to Virginia four-year colleges and universities (public & private), however, the advanced studies diploma is aligned with the expectations of our most selective and highest performing institutions.

1. Jonas, D.L., & Garland, M.W. (2014). *High school graduates' four-year college enrollment, persistence, and completion*. Report prepared for Virginia Department of Education and CIT Connect. Available online by visiting [tinyurl.com/CCR-May2014](http://tinyurl.com/CCR-May2014)

