Greetings, Languages Other Than English Bulletin members,

Topics included in this bulletin:

- State Board of Education Approves Technology Applications Courses for Languages other than English (LOTE) requirement
- Approved Substitutions for the LOTE Requirement
- Award of Credit for LOTE courses
- LOTE Course Offerings with the Texas Virtual School Network Course Catalog

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State Board of Education Approves Technology Applications Courses for LOTE requirement

In April 2016, the State Board of Education (SBOE) determined that Computer Science I, II, or III may continue to meet the two-credit languages other than English (LOTE) requirement for graduation on the Foundation High School Program. The SBOE's action eliminated the previous expiration date of September 1, 2016, and allowed the continued use of the courses, effective with the 2016-2017 school year. The graduation requirements found in Texas Administration Code (TAC) §74.12(5)(i)(ii) were updated in 2016 to reflect this change.

Computer Science I, II, or III continue to be the only computer programming courses that may meet the LOTE graduation requirement.

Approved Substitutions for the LOTE Requirement

In accordance with TAC §74.12, the following substitutions are permitted under the Foundation High School Program.

(1) A student may substitute another appropriate course for the second credit of LOTE, if after successfully completing the first LOTE credit, the student is determined unlikely to complete the second LOTE credit. The student's ability to complete the second credit of LOTE must be determined by the appropriate committee. See TAC §74.12(5)(C)(i-iii) for details.

The substitute course may only be applied for the second LOTE credit if the first credit of LOTE has been awarded. The following courses may be used as a substitute course for the second LOTE credit:

- Special Topics in Language and Culture
- World History Studies or World Geography Studies (if both are not required by the local district)
- Another course selected from another language
- Computer Science I, II, or III

(2) With the approval of the appropriate committee, a student, who due to a disability is unable to complete two credits in the same language, may substitute one of the following:

- A combination of two credits from English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies
- Two credits in career and technical education (CTE)
- Two credits in technology applications

See TAC §74.12(5)(D)(i-ii) for more information.

Please note, when using a substitute course for the LOTE to satisfy the graduation requirements of the Foundation High School Program, the substitute course may not also be used to satisfy another requirement in the Foundation High School Program, such as an elective or the third science credit. However, courses substituted to meet the LOTE requirement may also satisfy a requirement for an endorsement (TAC §74.13(g)). For example, a student with a STEM endorsement, may use Computer Science I and II to meet both the LOTE requirement as well as the coherent sequence for the computer science option.

Award of Credit for LOTE courses

A student must be awarded credit if a student has successfully demonstrated achievement by demonstrating proficiency in the TEKS of a course. In accordance with local district policy, students who are able to successfully complete only one semester of a two-semester course can be awarded credit proportionately. See TAC §74.26(d).

Because the LOTE TEKS are based on proficiency levels of the language, districts may also award credit for lower level course(s) to a student who is able to successfully complete the second or higher level LOTE course. Districts must verify that the student has demonstrated language proficiency of both level courses.

The rules concerning the award of credit can be found in TAC §74.26.

LOTE Course Offerings with the Texas Virtual School Network Course Catalog

The TxVSN Statewide Course catalog offers 90+ TEKS-based courses that are approved by the Texas Education Agency and taught by Texas-certified teachers trained in best practices for online instruction. LOTE courses available through the TxVSN catalog include American Sign Language I and II, Chinese I–III, French I–III, German I–III, Latin I–IV, Spanish I–IV, and Computer Science I and II. All TxVSN courses are highly interactive and have undergone a rigorous course review process to ensure alignment with the TEKS, national standards for quality online courses, and accessibility standards for students with special needs. For more information, including course fees and bulk pricing options, see the TxVSN website at www.txvsn.org. For assistance, contact the TxVSN Help Desk at 866-938-9876 or email txvsncentral@txvsn.org.

TEA recently announced grants to public rural school campuses and open-enrollment charter school campuses to support participation in TXVSN catalog courses. See the To the Administrator Addressed correspondence dated March 15, 2017.

Thank you for your commitment to serving Texas students.

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