

Instruction

High School Credit for Proficiency

Proficiency Credits¹

Subject to the limitations in this policy and State law, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to establish and approve a program for granting credit for proficiency with the goal of allowing a student who would not benefit from a course because the student is proficient in the subject area to receive credit without having to take the course. A student who demonstrates competency under this program will receive course credit for the applicable course and be excused from any requirement to take the course as a graduation prerequisite. No letter grade will be given for purposes of the student's cumulative grade point average. The Superintendent or designee shall notify students of the availability of and requirements for receiving proficiency credit.

Proficiency credit will be offered in the following subject areas:²

Foreign language - A student is eligible to receive one year of foreign language credit if the student has graduated from an accredited elementary school and can demonstrate proficiency, according to this District's academic criteria, in a language other than English.³ A student who demonstrates proficiency in American Sign Language is deemed proficient in a foreign language and will receive one year of foreign language credit.⁴ A student who studied a foreign language in an approved ethnic school program is eligible to receive appropriate credit according to the level of proficiency reached; the student may be required to take a proficiency examination.⁵

Other proficiency testing - The program for granting credit for proficiency may allow, as the Superintendent deems appropriate, course credit to be awarded on the basis of a local examination to a student who has achieved the necessary proficiency through independent study or work taken in or through another institution.⁶ Proficiency testing may also be used to determine eligible credit

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ An ISBE rule requires districts with a high school to have a policy on earning credit through proficiency exams. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460. State law controls this policy's content. Students must *successfully complete* the courses listed in 105 ILCS 5/27-~~22605~~, amended by P.A. ~~104-387~~, and amended and renumbered by P.A. ~~104-391~~s-~~101-643~~, ~~101-654~~, ~~102-366~~, in order to receive a high school diploma. See 6:300-E2, *State Law Graduation Requirements*. 105 ILCS 5/27-~~12-1305~~, ~~renumbered by P.A. 104-391~~, no longer allows districts to grant consumer education proficiency credit.

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.159, ~~amended by P.A. 101-503~~, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §680.20, a school district may establish a program to recognize high school graduates who attain a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English by designating on a student's diploma and transcript a State Seal of Biliteracy.

² This paragraph should be revised to reflect the actual practice concerning granting proficiency credits. A board may delete all text concerning foreign language proficiency credit and keep only the text in the second indented paragraph without using a subheading.

³ Optional, but permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43.

⁴ See f/n 2. Required only if the district offers proficiency credit for foreign language. Id.

⁵ See f/n 2. Optional, but permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43a.

⁶ Optional. Local examination is not defined but is generally understood to mean examinations developed by the district, school, or instructor, not standardized examinations developed by the state or an outside entity, e.g. advanced placement examinations by the College Board.

for other subjects whenever students enter from non-graded schools, non-recognized or non-accredited schools, or were in a home-schooling program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43, 5/10-22.43a, [and 5/27-60522](#), [and 5/27-24.3](#).
23 Ill.Admin.Code [§1.460](#); Part 680, [State Seal of Biliteracy](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8)

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