



Pacific High School

PO Box 8 Port Orford, OR 97465 • Phone: (541) 348 2293 • Fax: (541) 348-2389 • www.2cj.com

Bonita Stout
Principal

Ben Stallard
Athletic Director

Nicola Steers
Office Manager

Proposal to Reduce Foreign Language Credit Requirement (2026 - 2027 School year)

Proposed Change

I recommend that Pacific High School reduce the graduation requirement from 26 credits to 25 credits by removing the required foreign language credit.

This change would still keep Pacific High School above the State of Oregon diploma requirement of 24 credits while providing a more realistic and equitable pathway to graduation for all students.

Background

Pacific High School has always valued foreign language instruction and recognizes the many benefits of learning another language. Unfortunately, we do not currently have a Spanish teacher, which means we are unable to consistently offer a foreign language course. Requiring students to earn a credit in a course we cannot reliably provide creates an unnecessary challenge for them.

We are grateful to Mrs. Johnson for stepping up to facilitate the online foreign language course during the 2025–2026 school year. She took on this responsibility outside of her subject area to ensure students could meet the foreign language graduation requirement. While her willingness to help allowed us to meet students' immediate needs, it also demonstrated that this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

Rationale for the Change

Our graduation requirements should reflect both what we value and what we are able to consistently provide for students. At this time, requiring a foreign language credit does not align with our current course offerings.

The State of Oregon does not require a foreign language credit for high school graduation. This means that removing the local foreign language requirement would still keep us in compliance with the state's graduation requirements.

To better understand how removing this requirement might affect students planning to attend college, I reached out to several colleges, and their responses are included in the proposal packet. The feedback indicates that colleges do not expect applicants to have completed a foreign language if it was not offered by their high school and that they consider the courses that were available to students when reviewing applications.

Students who plan to attend a college or university and want to complete a foreign language course will still have that opportunity. They can continue to work with their academic advisor to explore online foreign language options. This keeps that pathway available for students who choose it while removing the requirement for all students to complete a course we are not currently able to offer.

Recommendation to the Board

This proposal does not eliminate foreign language opportunities for our students. Instead, it removes a graduation requirement that we are not currently able to consistently provide. It better aligns our graduation requirements with our staffing and course offerings while continuing to support students who choose to pursue foreign language study.

For these reasons, I recommend that the Board approve reducing the graduation requirement from 26 credits to 25 credits by removing the required foreign language credit.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal.

Bonita Stout
Principal
Pacific High School