



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

December 5, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: 10.1

TOPIC: First Reading of Proposed Credit Redistribution for Secondary Language Arts Course Requirements

BACKGROUND: Currently, students graduating from Forest Lake Area High School are required to complete 4 credits in English. These requirements include successful completion of English 9, successful completion of American Literature or American Voices at 10th Grade, Speech or Communication Theory and Practice, one writing course to be selected from a menu of four choices, and 1.0 elective credit from a variety of course choices. Department members and administration feel the literature requirement will better prepare students for a post-secondary experience.

PROCESS: Through data collection and discussions held with the Language Arts Curriculum Review team, the high school Language Arts department and administration, and the Director of Teaching and Learning, a request has come forward to offer a different combination of classes that would fulfill the graduation requirement in the Language Arts area. Staff members are requesting that the 1.0 elective credit requirement be adjusted to reflect two 0.5 credit options.

One would be a 0.5 literature requirement, which would be fulfilled by a choice of either Literature of the Imagination, World Literature, Popular Literature (offered in English or Spanish), or CIS Introduction to Literature. The other 0.5 course would remain an elective choice.

This suggested change does not change the overall Language Arts requirement for graduation, but does reduce the amount of elective choice from 1.0 to 0.5 credits. Students will still have choice in the courses identified for the literature requirement, as they do now for the writing requirement. This change would be effective for students graduating in 2016.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of proposed credit redistribution for secondary Language Arts course requirements.