

# Languages Other Than English - Frequently Asked Questions

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Which languages are included in languages other than English (LOTE)?

Any world language other than English, including American Sign Language (ASL), is considered a language other than English. Currently, students may earn credit by taking ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu, or Vietnamese.

In addition, certain computer programming languages can be used to satisfy the LOTE two-credit graduation requirement. (Also refer to questions 15 and 22.)

2. How or where can we find the LOTE standards?

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for LOTE are on the Texas Education Agency's website as part of [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) Chapter 114](#).

3. Where can I find instructional materials and professional development related to the LOTE TEKS?

The list of currently adopted instructional materials can be found on the [Instructional Materials Division webpage](#). This page provides links to currently adopted materials in the ordering system.

Currently, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) does not provide professional development related to the implementation of the revised LOTE TEKS.

4. Some LOTE courses previously included in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) are no longer available. Why?

The LOTE course list was updated to include only those aligned with the currently approved educator certificates and certification rules. Districts must ensure that instructors are appropriately certified to teach any TEKS-based course.

5. Are districts required to implement the TEKS for LOTE?

Yes. In TAC §§74.2 and 74.3, districts are required to offer and teach the TEKS for LOTE at kindergarten through grade 8 to the extent possible. At grades 9-12, districts must offer Levels I, II, and III or higher of the same language in at least one language.

6. Is there a state curriculum guide for LOTE?

No. The TEA does not provide a state curriculum guide; however, the LOTE TEKS are the state standards that identify what students should know and be able to do after completing a LOTE course.

Each district has the authority to determine how the learning standards for any course are implemented. The guidelines, sequencing, instructional materials, and methodology for delivering a course are determined at the local district level.

## AWARD OF CREDIT

7. How can a district obtain credit-by-examination assessments (CBEs) for LOTE?

The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University are authorized to provide CBEs. With local board approval, a district may also purchase or develop examinations that thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills in the applicable course level for the purposes of credit by examination. Refer to [TAC §74.24\(a\)\(3\) and \(4\)](#) for details.

8. What is the passing score for students who are native speakers or have had some prior instruction who decide to take a credit-by-examination assessment (CBE)?

The passing score for students who have not had any prior instruction is 80%. The passing score for students who have had prior instruction is 70%. Refer to [TAC §74.24\(c\)\(8\) and \(12\)](#) for details.

9. Can a student who comes to a district from another country satisfy the state graduation LOTE requirements with his/her native language?

It depends. The district is responsible for the award of credit and is allowed a variety of methods to determine student proficiency in course content. If a district determines, by whatever method is approved by the district, that the student demonstrates mastery in the TEKS for a LOTE course and the expected level of language proficiency, then the student may be awarded credit.

10. Can a student receive credit for LOTE courses offered in the elementary and middle school?

Yes. [TAC §74.26\(b\)](#) states that courses designated for grades 9-12 may be offered in earlier grade levels. A course must be considered completed and credit must be awarded if the student has demonstrated achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course. A district may also choose to award credit proportionally to a student who has successfully completed only a portion of the course.

A student who successfully completes a course in ASL while in elementary school may satisfy one credit of the two credits required in LOTE ([TAC §74.12\(b\)\(5\)\(G\)](#)).

Additionally, elementary students may earn one of the required high school credits by successfully completing a dual language immersion program. (Also refer to question 14.)

11. Can students with prior instruction or existing proficiency, including native speakers of other languages, who are placed in upper level courses, be awarded credit for lower level course work?

Yes. For students who are able to successfully complete the second or higher level LOTE course, districts may also award credit for the lower level course(s) by verifying that the student has demonstrated that the requirements of both level courses have been successfully met. This policy is only available within the LOTE subject area because the course levels are based on increasing proficiency and the knowledge and skills of the lower level course(s) are subsumed within each upper-level course.

12. If a district does not offer courses in a particular language, how can the student fulfill their graduation requirements?

- Students may enroll in a college course and receive high school credit. The district should determine the appropriate course that matches the level the student needs to complete. The college course must include all the TEKS for the LOTE course for which the student is seeking to earn credit.
- Students may take correspondence courses or distance learning courses. The only two institutions approved for correspondence courses are University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University. There is no restriction for distance learning providers. Both correspondence and distance learning courses must include all the TEKS for the LOTE course(s) for which the student is seeking to earn credit.
- Students may enroll in an online course. The [Texas Virtual School Network \(TXVSN\) catalog](#) offers TEKS-based courses that are approved by the TEA and taught by Texas-certified teachers trained in best practices for online instruction. Please refer to the TXVSN catalog for currently available courses.

## DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION

### 13. Can we use Rosetta Stone or similar instructional resources for LOTE instruction?

Yes. A local school district may provide instruction in a variety of arrangements and settings. The local school district must ensure that the instructional materials used for a course address all the TEKS for the course and provide students the opportunity to demonstrate the required proficiency level upon completion of the course. Districts must ensure that instructors are appropriately certified to deliver course content.

### 14. Can a student be awarded high school credit for completing a dual language immersion program at an elementary school?

Yes. In accordance with TEC §28.0051 and [TAC §74.12\(b\)\(5\)\(F\)](#), a student may satisfy one credit of the two LOTE credits required for graduation by successfully completing a dual language immersion (DLI) program at elementary school.

To successfully complete a DLI program, a student must satisfy the following three requirements.

1. The student must have participated in a dual language immersion program for at least five consecutive school years.
2. The student must achieve high levels of academic competence as demonstrated by performance of meets or masters grade level on both the mathematics and reading State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) in English and Spanish, as applicable, in at least one grade level.
3. The student must achieve proficiency in both English and a language other than English as demonstrated by scores of proficient or higher in the reading and speaking domains on language proficiency or achievement tests in both languages.

### 15. How should district document the award of credit for completion of the DLI program at an elementary school?

The award of credit must be clearly indicated on the student's academic achievement record (AAR) using the appropriate high school course PEIMS code. The second credit of LOTE must be in the same language as the successfully completed dual language immersion program.

16. Can a student be awarded credit for a language studied abroad?

Yes. It is recommended that the student obtain permission from their local school district prior to studying abroad and that the district and student determine in advance if the selected course includes the TEKS for the corresponding LOTE course. Ultimately, the district is responsible for awarding credit in accordance with [TAC §74.26\(a\)\(2\)](#).

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS—FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

17. How many years of a language other than English are required for students to graduate on the Foundation High School Program?

Two levels of the same language are required for graduation on the Foundation High School Program. A student cannot combine course or credits from different languages to meet the LOTE requirement. Students may also meet the LOTE requirement by earning two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, and III, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, IB Computer Science Standard Level, and IB Computer Science Higher Level.

18. Are there any exceptions for the LOTE requirement on the Foundation High School Program?

No. There are no exceptions for the LOTE requirement. However, the State Board of Education (SBOE) has defined certain substitutions for this requirement based on student ability. These substitute courses are specified in [TAC §74.12\(b\)\(5\)\(C\) and \(E\)](#).

19. If a student used a substitution for the LOTE graduation requirement, how do we indicate that information on the transcript?

Any course other than a LOTE course taken to satisfy the LOTE requirement should be documented by using the code for the course and adding the special explanation code “8” in the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) system. For example, for World Geography Studies, add the “8” code.

20. Can a student earn an endorsement if the student applied a substitution for the LOTE graduation requirement?

Yes. As long as the student completes the Foundation High School Program requirements in a manner consistent with the rules established by the SBOE, the student may also complete an endorsement.

21. What is required to earn an arts and humanities endorsement in LOTE on the Foundation High School Program?

According to [TAC §74.13\(f\)\(4\)\(B-D\)](#), students must complete the requirements of the Foundation High School Program and one of the following combinations from TAC Chapter 114:

- Four levels of the same language in LOTE, which may include Advanced Language for Career Applications
- Two levels of the same language in LOTE and two levels of a different language in LOTE
- Four levels of American sign language (ASL)

22. Are special education students required to complete the language requirement for graduation?

Yes. Students receiving special education services must complete two credits of the same language to meet graduation requirements. Refer to [TAC §89.1070](#) for further guidance on graduation requirements and modification for students receiving special education services. (Also refer to question 20.)

23. We have a junior/senior who has enrolled in our district and does not have any credits for LOTE. How will these students meet the requirement to graduate on time?

Districts are responsible for ensuring that students complete the graduation requirements. There is no exemption from the LOTE requirement of the Foundation High School Program. Districts may offer accelerated instruction, online or distance learning, or other methods to ensure a timely graduation for these students.

24. A student came to our district with LOTE credit in a language our district does not offer. Can we substitute a different LOTE course?

No. The use of substitutions on the Foundation High School Program is based on student ability and not course availability. Districts are expected to make every attempt for the student to complete the graduation requirements as stated. Districts may offer accelerated instruction, online or distance learning, or other methods to ensure a timely graduation for these students.

25. Which computer programming courses may meet the LOTE requirement?

The SBOE has identified specific computer programming courses that may meet the LOTE graduation requirement. The only courses that may meet the LOTE requirement are the following [career and technical education \(CTE\)](#) courses:

- Computer Science I
- Computer Science II
- Computer Science III
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- IB Computer Science Standard Level
- IB Computer Science Higher Level

26. Can the two-credit AP Computer Science A and the two-credit IB Computer Science HL courses also meet the advanced math requirement?

Yes. [TAC §74.11\(k\)](#) states that the district must allow the student to apply one of the two credits to meet the LOTE requirement and one credit to meet the advanced mathematics requirement. The student can earn two credits by completing either of these courses. The PEIMS code table contains two codes for each course to reflect the correct attribution of these credits.

Please note that this rule does not apply to IB Computer Science SL.

27. Are there any performance acknowledgements for language proficiency? If so, how can students meet these requirements?

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy. Refer to [TAC §74.14\(b\)](#) for the specific qualifying criteria.

28. Will computer science courses used to meet the high school LOTE requirement be allowed to meet college entrance requirements regarding LOTE?

Colleges and universities set their own entrance requirements. Consequently, a student should verify admission requirements with each college or university.