

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Arts, ESL and Second (Foreign) Language**

### **How can the electives requirement of the Future-Ready Core be fulfilled?**

The electives requirement states that students must take six elective credits, two of which must be any combination of arts education, career and technical education (CTE) or second language. Students may take ANY combination of elective courses, as long as at least two of them fall under one or more of the identified categories: arts education (dance, music, theatre arts, visual arts), career and technical education and/or second language. So, a student could take one arts education course and one CTE course; one arts education course and one second language course; one CTE course and one second language course; two arts education courses; two second language courses; or two CTE courses to meet this requirement. The other four units may be from any content area(s). Keep in mind that the UNC System requires two units of credit in second language for admittance into any of the universities in the system.

### **My child already speaks a language besides English at home. Can s/he take that language at school to meet the requirement?**

Under the present SBE policy, native speakers of a language other than English still need 2 credits of second language or demonstration of proficiency as determined by the local education unit. Native speakers can meet the UNC requirement by enrolling in their own language as a foreign language or a heritage language program (Spanish for Native Speakers, French for Native Speakers, etc.) at any level depending on their placement in high school. Districts should have a policy in place that determines how the LEA is going to determine proficiency of a foreign language.

### **My child already speaks a language besides English at home but it isn't taught at school. How can s/he meet the requirement?**

Under the present SBE policy, native speakers of a language other than English still need 2 credits of second language or demonstration of proficiency as determined by the local education unit. Districts should have a policy in place that determines how the LEA is going to determine proficiency of a second language. Example policies and information about how a district should note this on a transcript are online at [http://community.learnnc.org/dpi/secondlang/archives/2005/06/foreign\\_language\\_1.php](http://community.learnnc.org/dpi/secondlang/archives/2005/06/foreign_language_1.php)

### **My child is already proficient in another language. Is there another way to meet the requirement without taking a course?**

Under the present SBE policy, native speakers of a language other than English still need 2 credits of second language or demonstration of proficiency as determined by the local education unit. Districts should have a policy in place that determines how the LEA is going to determine proficiency of a foreign language. Example policies and information about how a district should note this on a transcript are online at [http://community.learnnc.org/dpi/secondlang/archives/2005/06/foreign\\_language\\_1.php](http://community.learnnc.org/dpi/secondlang/archives/2005/06/foreign_language_1.php)

**My child wants to take Latin. Can s/he meet the requirement with a classical or dead language?**

Any 2 consecutive credits of the same language that 1) follow the Standard Course of Study and 2) meet the clock hour requirements will fulfill this requirement. Second languages that are currently taught in North Carolina include: American Sign Language (ASL), Arabic, Cherokee, Chinese, French, French for Native Speakers, German, Greek (Classical and Modern), Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish, and Spanish for Native Speakers.

**My child is deaf/hard of hearing. Can s/he meet the requirement with American Sign Language (ASL)?**

Under the present SBE policy, native speakers of a language other than English, including ASL, still need 2 credits of second language or demonstration of proficiency as determined by the local education unit. Students who use ASL can be enrolled in ASL courses that follow the Standard Course of Study for ASL Levels I and II and meet the requirement. Districts should have a policy in place that determines how the LEA is going to determine proficiency of a second language.

**My child wants to take a second language online. Can s/he meet the requirement that way?**

The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) offers Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish at different levels, including some advanced courses that students can earn honors and AP credit in. These courses are available to all students across North Carolina and are aligned to the NC Standard Course of Study, so they meet the requirements. Your son/daughter should check with the guidance counselor at her school about enrolling in an NCVPS online course.

**My child is in an ESL program. Can s/he meet the second language requirement with ESL courses?**

No, ESL courses do not meet the second language requirement. However, please see the information above about students who already speak another language at home or who have proficiency in another language.

**My child goes to a middle school that offers second language courses. Can s/he transfer this credit to meet the high school requirement?**

Any second language courses for high school credit that are offered in middle school must be aligned to the [North Carolina Second Language Standard Course of Study for Grades 9-12](#) and consist of 150 clock hours of instruction in a traditional schedule or a minimum of 135 clock hours of instruction in a block schedule and be directed by a teacher. To receive credit the student must pass the course. Middle schools have flexibility to offer one level over two academic years, so that students receive 0.5 credit for Part I and 0.5 credit for Part II to receive the full credit. Courses that do not follow the [North Carolina Second Language Standard Course of Study for Grades 9-12](#), do not

meet for the required amount of time, or are classified as Exploratory do not meet the requirement.

**My child earned an A in a middle school second language course that met the requirements to count for high school graduation credit. Can s/he get that included in the GPA calculation?**

No. While the course(s) will count toward graduation requirements, the student GPA will be computed with courses taken during high school years.

**Is there a requirement in arts education?**

Students must take six elective credits, two of which must be any combination of arts education, career and technical education or second language. Students may take arts education courses or any combination of courses from the identified areas to meet the two-elective requirement. The other four credits can be from any content area(s).

Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to complete a four credit concentration focused on student interests and post-secondary goals.

**Can there be concentrations in arts or second language education?**

Yes, the State Board of Education strongly recommends that students develop a four-course concentration focused on student interests and post-secondary goals.

Concentrations could occur in any of the four arts education areas (dance, music, theatre arts and visual arts), 4 sequenced levels of a second language or with other areas that would help meet career or post-secondary goals (for example, music and business management courses; visual arts and graphics or marketing courses; dance and medical courses; second language and international business, etc).

**Who should I contact if I have additional questions?**

If you have additional questions regarding Arts, ESL and Second Language and the Future-Ready Core, please contact Helga Fasciano, director of NCDPI K-12 Program Areas, 919-807-3864 or hfascian@dpi.state.nc.us.