

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>AWARDING CREDIT FOR ESL STUDENTS</b>	<b>Regulation Identifier:</b>	<b>SEC-25</b>
<b>Office:</b>	<b>SECONDARY INSTRUCTION</b>		
<b>Reference:</b>			
<b>To:</b>	<b>All High School Principals</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>December 2007</b>	<b>Reissued By:</b>	<b>Sara McAndrew &amp; Brian Woods</b>

**Search Text:**

ESL students who enroll in our high schools often are placed in an international language courses so that they can meet the requirements of the recommended diploma. However, those with prior schooling often have course work in their home language. According to the Texas Administrative Code, we can grant credit for this course experience. Below is the interpretation of a TEA official:

*In reviewing these two TAC rules, if a student from a foreign country studied his own language in elementary school, the student could be eligible for level 1 credit and possibly level 2. This all depends on how often the student met for classes. Using examples from U.S. programs, many elementary programs offer a language for 20-30 minutes 2-3 times per week. In such a program, students would most likely complete level 1 over a period of five years. If the students met for 30 minutes everyday or 45 minutes three times per week for all of the elementary school years, the student could complete levels 1 and 2 and be ready for level 3 in middle school.*

If a student has records that indicate course work in the home language through what we would call middle school, up to three credits of the language can be given. No more than three credits should be awarded.

When a student enrolls with records of prior schooling look for courses in the home language. As far back as elementary grades, credit can be given for the home language depending on the amount of instructional time spent in the study of the language. The grade shown on the transcript should be the grade earned when the course was originally taken. If no grade is obvious, but the child obviously passed, a grade of 77 should be awarded.

If you have questions regarding the awarding of credit in this way you can contact Brigitte Deyle, Rosanna Perez, Sara McAndrew, Deborah Healy or Brian Woods.