Language Other Than English (LOTE) Credit

Requirements

Regents Diploma: At least one (1) LOTE Credit
Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: Three (3) Credits AND pass a Checkpoint B Examination

Earning LOTE Credit in a Country where English is NOT the Native Language

- Up to three (3) LOTE credits may be earned for each year of documented school attendance in an “other-than-English-speaking” environment
- Up to five (5) total LOTE credits may be awarded in total

Requirements
- Experience occurred at age 10 years or older
- Direct contact with environment, its language and people
- Experience over the summer is NOT eligible for credit

Checkpoint Examinations

Learning a language other than English may begin at any time; therefore, performance standards are keyed to checkpoints that may be measured at any point in the K-12 continuum.

Checkpoint A: Considered to be a “way station” en route to proficiency
Checkpoint B*: Equivalent to proficiency required for a high school diploma
Checkpoint C: Advanced level of performance

*required for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

Schools and districts have the option to join other schools in a consortium to develop Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B examinations, design their own examinations, or adopt a vendor-made assessment.

If a student needs to take a Checkpoint B exam in a LOTE not offered in the Ithaca City School District, the school can create its own exam, check with surrounding schools for exams, work within the community or with a translator to produce an exam, or adopt a vendor-made assessment aligned to the New York State LOTE learning standards.

Transfer Students

- If a student transferred in grade 7 or 8 with at least one (1) credit for residence and school attendance, they must take the Checkpoint A Examination.
- Checkpoint A exams are not required after 8th grade.
- If students transfer after having earned one (1) or two (2) LOTE credits for residence and attendance and the school does not offer that language, the student may complete the remaining unit(s) of LOTE in

For more information, see next page.
What Language Other Than English (LOTE) requirements must students meet?
Students are required to have at least one LOTE credit for a Regents Diploma. For a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, students must obtain a total of three LOTE credits, plus the locally developed Checkpoint B examination in that language.

Can students earn LOTE credit for living in a country where English is not the native language?
Students may earn up to three (3) LOTE credits for each year of documented school attendance in residence in an “other-than-English-speaking” environment, provided that the experience occurred at age 10 or older and resulted in direct contact with the environment, its language and people. This credit option is available to ALL students, not just those identified as English language learners or those for whom English is not their first language. This does not include students who reside in a bilingual or monolingual household where a LOTE is spoken or to students who spent time in a foreign country over the summer.

How many total credits may a student receive for experience in an “other-than-English-speaking” environment?
Up to five (5) total LOTE credits may be awarded for school attendance and residence in an “other-than-English-speaking” environment, regardless of the length of experience.

Are students required to take an examination in order to receive the credit?
Students who transfer in grade 7 or 8 with at least one unit of credit for residence and school attendance (equivalent to two units of study) must also take the Checkpoint A examination. No Checkpoint A exam is required after 8th grade. To receive credit toward a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, students are required to take a locally developed comprehensive Checkpoint B examination. Regardless of the student’s level of LOTE instruction, they must still earn three units of credit in a LOTE subject and pass a locally developed comprehensive Checkpoint B exam. If a student transfers after having earned one or two LOTE credits for residence and school attendance and the school does not offer that language, the student may complete the remaining unit(s) of LOTE credit in another language.

What checkpoint examinations are offered?
Learning a language other than English may begin at any time; therefore, performance standards are keyed to checkpoints that may be measured at any point in the K-12 continuum.
• Checkpoint A is considered to be a “way station” en route to proficiency.
• Checkpoint B corresponds to the level of performance that all students should demonstrate in order to obtain a high school diploma.
• Checkpoint C corresponds to an advanced level of performance.

How can schools administer the checkpoint examinations?
Schools and districts have the option to join other schools in a consortium to develop Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B examinations, design their own examinations, or adopt a vendor-made assessment. If a student needs to take a Checkpoint B exam in a LOTE not offered in the Ithaca City School District, the school can create its own exam, check with surrounding schools for exams, work within the community or with a translator to produce an exam, or adopt a vendor-made assessment aligned to the New York State LOTE learning standards.