



NYS AFLT
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NYS AFLT INFORMATIONAL SHEET ON THE STATUS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY IN NEW YORK STATE

NEED FOR INCREASED FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

Our students will interact with people from other cultural and linguistic backgrounds in their lifetimes both at the local and international level. The need to communicate in languages other than English and to appreciate and respect cultural differences must be an essential part of each student's education. Such skills take many years to develop.

The following are the New York State Standards for Languages Other Than English:

- *Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.*
- *Students will develop cross-cultural skills and understandings.*

CURRENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirement for high school graduation, "New Regents Diploma"

Students must complete two units of study of a Language Other Than English (LOTE), finishing by the end of grade 9. Students beginning study in grade 7 must pass the New York State Second Language Proficiency Examination if they complete their sequence at the end of grade 8. Students completing their requirement in grade 9 must pass the course or the Second Language Proficiency (SLP) Examination. Students may also complete the requirement in a one year accelerated program in the middle school. In this case the students must pass both the course and the SLP in order to earn the credit.

Requirement for "Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation"

Besides additional requirements in math and science, students must:

- Take an additional two courses and pass the comprehensive Regents Examination in a LOTE
or
- Take a five unit sequence in the arts or technology

THE NYS AFLT POSITION

NYS AFLT supports the following:

- Communication to the Board of Regents concerning the importance of foreign language as a core subject.
- Researching the feasibility of introducing a bill to the New York State Legislature which will provide funding to replicate model programs that offer foreign languages in the early grades. This would be an excellent start to an eventually stronger and more effective K through 12 program of foreign language guided by the New York State Standards in Languages other than English.
- Legislative action which would fund incentives for university students who wish to become foreign language teachers in New York State.