INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Promotion, Retention, Grading, and Graduation Requirements

Credit for Secondary Students with a Home Language Other than English

This regulation supersedes Regulation 2442.9.

I. PURPOSE

To describe ways in which students with a home language other than English, including English Learners (ELs), English language proficiency (ELP) level 1-4, receive high school credits towards graduation.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

This regulation has undergone significant changes and should be reviewed in its entirety.

III. EARNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS WITHIN FCPS

The current version of Regulation 2408, Earning High School Credits, outlines the ways that all students may earn standard credits towards graduation. Students who are ELP level 1-4 may also earn credits as outlined in this regulation.

A. Credit for English Language Development (ELD) Courses

1. Middle school students in grades 7-8 enrolled in ELD courses (5710-5730) may receive elective credits toward high school graduation requirements for a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma, up to two world languages credits toward high school graduation requirements towards the Advanced Studies Diploma, or a combination of these options.

2. High school students enrolled in ELD 5720 and 5730 courses may be awarded elective credits toward high school graduation requirements for a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma, up to four world languages credits toward high school graduation requirements for fulfilling the world languages requirements towards the Advanced Studies Diploma, or a combination of these options.

   a. Students who successfully complete three English courses can use the 5730 ELD 4 credit to satisfy their fourth English requirement, taking into account the student’s postsecondary plan. However, students who enroll in English 9 as age-appropriate ninth graders may not receive English credit for ELD 4. Please note that the completion of English 12 is recommended for students interested in pursuing future studies at a two- or four-year college or university.
b. Students who are ELP Level 1-2 after having successfully completed English 9 and English 10 may enroll in Academic Literacy (57329-). Students may then use this credit to satisfy the fourth English requirement towards graduation, taking into account the student’s postsecondary plan. Please note that the completion of English 12 is recommended for students interested in pursuing future studies at a two- or four-year college or university.

3. Students may not be concurrently enrolled in more than two courses for English credit, including adult education courses, correspondence courses, online courses, or alternative high school courses.

4. ELD courses may be repeated for elective credit.

B. World Language Credits for Students with a Home Language other than English

1. A student entering FCPS in grades 7-12 who has been enrolled in a course of his or her native language instruction in a high school or middle school program, as documented through a bona fide transcript, may receive world languages credit.

2. A student who demonstrates writing ability on the FCPS Credit Exam for World Languages in his or her language(s) may receive up to three world language credits in each language.

3. Only ELD courses completed in FCPS, as specified in section III.A. will earn world languages credits.

IV. HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERING INTO FCPS

Students transferring into FCPS have the opportunity to transfer high school credits as outlined in the current version of Regulation 2460. Additionally, students with a home language other than English may transfer or demonstrate credits in accordance with this regulation.

A. High School English Credit for Students with a Home Language other than English upon Entry into FCPS from an Accredited International School

A student may receive high school English credit from a transcript evaluation if the student attended an accredited international school with U.S. accreditation and earned English credit.

B. High School English Credit for Students with a Home Language other than English upon Entry into FCPS from an International School that is not accredited by a U.S. accrediting agency.

1. When initially registering in FCPS, a student is eligible to take the English Equivalency Exam (EEQ) if he or she meets all the following criteria:
   a. The student has a transcript from his or her country documenting course work in an unspecified level of English instruction.
b. The student is a ninth grader or above.

c. The student has a minimum ELP level 3.

2. Upon passing the test, a tenth-grade student may receive ninth grade English credit; an eleventh or twelfth grade student may receive ninth and/or tenth grade English credit.

3. English courses from non-accredited schools that are determined ineligible for English credit will be awarded elective credit.

4. Situations in which a student is seeking eleventh grade English credit will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Student Registration, ESOL Services, and Instructional Services.

5. The EEQ is administered at an ESOL Entry Assessment Center. Credit is awarded at the time of registration by Student Registration in consultation with ESOL Entry Assessment.

Legal Reference: 8 VAC 20-131-150

See also the current versions of:

Regulation 2408, Earning High School Credits
Regulation 2409, Alternative Methods for Earning High School Credit
Regulation 2460, Requirements for Graduation and Graduation Seals of Requirements

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS