

### Foreign High School Transcript Evaluation

Students who have completed the equivalent of grades 8 through 11 in another country must be interviewed by the International Student and Family Welcome Center (IWC) school counselor to determine appropriate transfer of high school credits for MSDE graduation requirements. They must present all of their school transcripts, records, exam scores or end of year report card for each year they attended grades 8 and above outside of the United States.

Credits towards graduation will only be awarded when official documentation is presented to the IWC. Information not available at the initial registration must be submitted as soon as possible.

Students coming from other countries with no or limited previous formal schooling who are older than 14 years old will be placed in grade 9.

### CREDITS AWARDED

#### AWARDING ENGLISH CREDITS

- Students coming into AACPS are given a diagnostic English language proficiency test at the IWC to determine English proficiency. Currently, that test is the WIDA-Paper Screener.
- Students scoring level 3.5 or above may receive up to 1 English credit for each year of English taken (English 9, 10, 11, or 12). Seat hours will be determined during the student interview for the appropriate number of credits.
- Students scoring levels 1 – 3.4 on the diagnostic English proficiency test will receive Independent Study English credit, which does not meet graduation requirements and counts only as elective credit. Seat hours will be determined during the student interview for the appropriate number of credits.
  - ESOL credits are not awarded for English courses taken out of the U.S.
- Beginning in 2008-2009, two years of ESOL studies (ESOL 1, 2, 3, or 4 or their equivalents) in the United States at the high school level may be counted as two English credits toward graduation.

#### AWARDING MATH CREDITS/ PLACING STUDENTS INTO MATH COURSES

- Math credits will be awarded based on performance on the International Student Math Placement Test and number of years of math studied at the high school level. The placement test has four sections: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. This test was revised in May 2021 to more closely align with MSDE/Common Core Standards.
- A score of 60% or above is considered a passing score/proficient per section.
  - A student must score a minimum of 60% on a particular section in order to receive the credit.
  - S/he must also provide a high school transcript to demonstrate s/he took and passed a math course in their previous school for credits to be awarded.
  - A math credit cannot be awarded without a corresponding grade from the foreign school the student attended.

Level of proficiency on IWC Math Placement Test	Recommended Math Placement at Local High School	Credits Awarded based on number of years of high school math demonstrated with documentation
No previous schooling	Transitional Math	N/A
Previous schooling, but not proficient on Pre-Algebra Level	Transitional Math	Math Elective Credit (9,10 or 11)
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Math Elective Credit (9,10 or 11)
Algebra 1	Algebra II or Geometry	Algebra I
Geometry	Algebra II	Algebra 1, Geometry
Algebra 2	FOCA or Pre-Calculus	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

## AWARDING FOREIGN LANGUAGE CREDITS

- Students may be awarded one of three possible Foreign Language courses for each year of Foreign Language studied abroad. An interview with the student will determine the appropriate equivalent course.
  - **Native Language Year (1, 2, 3, 4):** This is the high school equivalent of Language Arts of the student's own language that s/he speaks naturally at home. "Mother tongue."
  - **WCL Level 1 and Level 2:** Not the student's own native language but a true foreign language other than English that was taught in the school. (ie: a native Spanish speaking student who was learning an indigenous/tribal language)

## AWARDING SOCIAL STUDIES CREDITS

- Students will only be awarded *World History* credits for classes that include studies of world history per initial student interview.
- Studies of local history/civics/geography/government/philosophy/psychology will be counted as Independent Study Social Studies courses, which count for elective credit.

## AWARDING SCIENCE CREDITS

- Science courses in other countries are usually taught concurrently. That is, biology, chemistry and physics may be taught all in the same semester in one class.
- For students with biology, chemistry and physics on their transcripts for one full year of study, a decision will be made for credits awarded based on "seat hours" in each class.

## AWARDING ELECTIVE CREDITS

- Elective credits are awarded based on number of hours per week in a semester. An interview with the student will determine appropriate equivalent course.