



San Diego Unified School District  
Office of Language Acquisition

Pathways for Meeting the World Language Graduation Requirement

Pathway	Guidance	Documentation
<p><b>1. Completion of two years of district world language courses*</b></p> <p><b>2. Completion of two years of district-approved IWLS Courses*</b></p> <p><i>Students will earn a grade/graduation credit for each course taken.</i></p>	<p>Students will earn graduation credit for world language courses taken at an SDUSD school in Grades 7 – 12. Students enrolled in world language courses at District-approved Independent World Language Schools may earn graduation credit while enrolled at a District high school in Grades 9 – 12 (per Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations).</p> <p><b>*NOTE: Validation of a Language Other Than English</b> In accordance with the UC/CSU LOTE Validation Policy, in which “the completion of higher-level (advanced) course in areas of sequential knowledge demonstrates proficiency of lower-level coursework in the same subject area for the purpose of satisfying the UC freshman admission subject requirements,” students who complete the equivalent of a second year of a language (or higher) will meet the LOTE graduation requirement.</p>	<p>Student grades will be recorded on SDUSD transcripts.</p>
<p><b>3. Passing an SAT II, AP, or IB exam</b></p> <p><i>District grade/ graduation credit may be earned by AP and IB students <b>formally enrolled</b> in the course.</i></p> <p><i>No district graduation credit or grade will be earned for SAT II exams or AP/IB exams taken by students <b>not formally enrolled</b> in the course.</i></p>	<p>Score of 3, 4, or 5 on an AP Language and Culture or AP Literature exam.</p> <p>Score of 5, 6, or 7 on an IB Language HL exam.</p> <p>Scores as follows on the SAT II Subject Test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese with listening – 520</li> <li>• French/French with listening – 540</li> <li>• German/German with listening – 510</li> <li>• Modern Hebrew – 470</li> <li>• Italian – 520</li> <li>• Korean with listening – 500</li> <li>• Latin – 530</li> <li>• Spanish/Spanish with listening – 520</li> </ul>	<p>Student grades will be recorded on SDUSD transcripts for students <b>formally enrolled</b> in AP and IB courses.</p> <p>For SAT II Subject Test and students taking an AP or IB exam while <b>not formally enrolled</b> in the course:</p> <p>Option 3 checked on LOTE Proficiency Certification with principal’s signature.</p>
<p><b>4. Formal schooling in a Language other than English (LOTE)</b></p> <p><i>No district graduation credit or grade will be earned.</i></p>	<p>Students with transcripts documenting a minimum of two years of formal education in a language other than English at or beyond Grade 6 have met the world language graduation requirement. Consecutive enrollment is not required.</p>	<p>School transcripts or other enrollment document.</p> <p>Option 4 checked on LOTE Proficiency Certification with principal’s signature.</p>
<p><b>5. Passing a LOTE Alternative Assessment with Principal Certification</b></p> <p><i>No district graduation credit or grade will be earned.</i></p>	<p>Students who have never had the opportunity to take a world language course, or who do not have transcripts to document formal education in a language other than English, and the Home Language Survey (HLS) indicates a language other than English, may choose to demonstrate proficiency via a LOTE Alternative Assessment.</p> <p>Assessments are currently available in <b>Amharic, Arabic, ASL (DHH), Burmese, Cambodian, Farsi, Filipino, French, German, Japanese, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Mandarin, Portuguese,</b></p>	<p>Proficient score on written exam. Oral/aural proficiency verified by speaker of the student’s language.</p> <p>Option 5 checked on LOTE Proficiency Certification with principal’s signature.</p>

	<b>Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese.</b>	
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<b>Pathway</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
<b>6. Assessment by a college or university</b>  <i>No district graduation credit or grade will be earned.</i>	Some university language departments will conduct an assessment and issue a statement of competency on official letterhead. This formal document will show that the student has met the world language graduation requirement.  Students should contact the college or university directly in order to schedule an assessment. Students will be responsible for any expenses incurred during the assessment process.	College or university verification of proficiency.  Option 6 checked on LOTE Proficiency Certification with principal's signature.

Reference: University of California Validation Matrix  
[http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/validation\\_matrix\\_math\\_lote.pdf](http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/validation_matrix_math_lote.pdf)

## LOTE FAQs

### ***What is LOTE?***

LOTE = Language Other than English = World Language. All students, starting with the Class of 2016, need to demonstrate proficiency in English and a language other than English in order to meet SDUSD graduation requirements.

### ***What is LOTE proficiency?***

For SDUSD graduation purposes, students must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English **equivalent to** two years of formal instruction in that language. This **does not mean** that students need two years of seat time in a world language class. (See note below)

### ***How do students demonstrate LOTE proficiency?***

There are 6 options for students to demonstrate proficiency and satisfy the world language graduation requirement. The majority of students will do this via the first two options:

1. Take 2 years of world language courses in an SDUSD school
2. Take 2 years of world language courses in an SDUSD-approved Independent World Language School  
Students may also satisfy the world language requirement through the following alternative means:
3. Passing an AP, IB, or SAT Subject exam
4. Completing 2 years of formal instruction in a language other than English at or beyond Grade 6 (verified by foreign transcripts)
5. Passing a district-designed LOTE assessment (assessments are currently available in Arabic, Cambodian, Filipino, French, German, Japanese, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese).
6. Receiving a certificate of proficiency from a college or university

### ***Can my student waive the LOTE graduation requirement?***

No. Every student who intends to graduate from an SDUSD high school must meet the requirement in one of the six ways listed above.

### ***What if my student has a 504 or an IEP?***

Please consult with your student's counselor and/or SST for additional information.

### ***What if my student already speaks a language other than English?***

Please review options 3 through 6 above. Students who already speak a language other than English may be able to satisfy the world language requirement without having to be enrolled in two years or world language courses. (See note below)

*If you have additional questions, please contact your secondary school site counselor.*

**\*NOTE:** The LOTE requirement is about language proficiency, not seat time. Passing a higher-level course validates the course of study for any lower level courses. For example, if a student passes French 5-6, he or she will earn graduation credit for that course and will meet the world language requirement since 5-6 is a third-year course. SDUSD considers a “D” to be a passing grade, but a “C” or better is required for UC/CSU admission.