

World Languages Graduation Requirement, Cony High School



WHAT: The Cony Administration, in collaboration with the World Languages Department and the Department Heads, are proposing to pilot a graduation requirement change to the Cony Program of Studies. Currently, there is not a graduation requirement for World Languages for students. This proposal is to add a requirement of 1 semester/learning experience for graduation for students.

WHO: All students who graduate from Cony High School will need to meet this graduation requirement.

WHEN: This proposal will take effect in Fall of 2015 with the graduating class of 2020 (current 7th graders).

WHERE: Cony Middle and High School

WHY: As part of Maine law (LD 1422), schools are required to issue a Proficiency-Based diploma to students. To earn a proficiency-based diploma, students must demonstrate their proficiency in all eight Content Areas of the Maine Learning Results. One of the eight areas that students must demonstrate proficiency in is World Languages. Since Cony High School currently doesn't have a requirement for World Languages, Augusta Public Schools can not ensure that students will demonstrate proficiency in this area.

ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and FLAME (Foreign Language Association of Maine) are recommending that districts require students to achieve at the Intermediate-Mid range to demonstrate proficiency. The proposal for School Board's consideration is for Augusta School Department to require students to demonstrate proficiency at the Novice-High level with the addition of a World Language graduation requirement. To accomplish this, Cony MS/HS needs to continue our 8th grade World Language Unified Arts experience and add a 1 semester World Languages graduation requirement at the high school level. With both experiences, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency at the novice-high level.

Ranges of World Language proficiency

Novice Range	Intermediate Range	Advanced Range
Low	Low	Low
Mid	Mid (MDOE recommendation)	Mid
High (Augusta SD proposal)	High	High

To achieve the Novice-High level of proficiency, the following will happen:

1. 7th grade students will take a survey class of World Languages.
2. 8th grade students will select their first or second choice language and take a semester-long language course.
3. High School students will be required to take one semester of the same language that they took in 8th grade, given that they showed proficiency in the 8th grade experience.
4. If students decide to take a different language in HS from their 8th grade language, they will need to take two semesters of the same language to meet novice-high proficiency at the High School level.
5. If students transfer to Cony from another school and don't demonstrate proficiency in a language, students will need to take two semesters of the same language to meet novice-high proficiency.
6. Students can take multiple languages, but they need to show proficiency in at least one language.

Proposed and Approved by Cony Administration:

Date: Dec 30, 2014

